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DOUBLE ISSUE  
BEST OF THE YEAR

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BRUCE VILANCH'S TOP 10

HAIRSPRAY'S MARC SHAIMAN

THE LEGACY OF HARRY HAY

GRADING THE HOURS & CHICAGO

SPORTS STARS CRY "FAG"

QUEEN ROCKS ON

CAN THE AIDS RIDES SURVIVE?

LIFE & DEATH AT THE GAY GAMES

STILL SURVIVING THE EPIDEMIC

The national gay & lesbian newsmagazine

# The Advocate

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JANUARY 21, 2003

## Person of the Year Rosie O'Donnell

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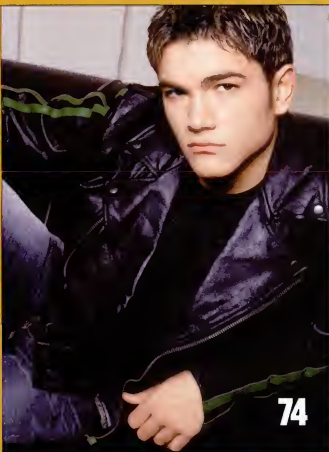
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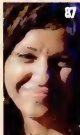
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# A piece of my heart



In the summer of 1996, there was upheaval in the offices of *The Advocate*. Unfortunately, this has been a tradition whenever an editor in chief leaves the job at this fiery newsmagazine. The hot August day that I became the first woman editor in chief of *The Advocate* was no exception. Rather than being a time for full-hearted celebration,

it was a time for deeply mixed feelings. Some changes—no matter what else changes—seem to be born out of turmoil.

Since I knew there had never been a graceful passing-on of this important title in the magazine's three-plus-decade history, I made myself a promise: My goal would be to leave the editor in chief position with all the good feelings and accomplishments the magazine and I had fought for—intact. Even more important, I wanted to see this creative atmosphere serve as the right setting for the next editor in chief's journey into decision-making and leadership. There just had to be a way.

Now, after I've spent nearly seven years at the helm, the moment has come. By leaving my role as editor in chief of *The Advocate*, I officially take the last step into my position as editorial director of LPI Media. Although I have served as corporate editorial director for over three years, during this time I have continued to head one of the most remarkable teams in magazine history: the *Advocate* staff. No magazine does well or makes history because of its top editor. And if it does, *that* won't last long. It's all about the staff—and finding the right editorial staff for *The Advocate*, I like to joke (but is it a joke?), took about 35 years.

Unlike other award-winning newsmagazines in this country, *The Advocate* delivers the goods every other week with a shockingly small staff of editors! We have two unstop-



*Advocate* awards 2002 (from left): Folio Editorial Excellence for *Advocate.com*; NGLTF Leadership Award; GLAAD Barbara Gittings Award

pable and multitasking senior writer-editors, Jon Barrett (news) and Anne Stockwell (arts and entertainment). Their associates, Lisa Wexton (news) and Alonso Duralde (arts and entertainment) more than hold up their half of the sky. Our managing editor, John Jameson, keeps it all running without freaking (try and find one of those!), and our

Web editor, Christopher Harrity, brings the previously mentioned staffers' work to life twice daily on the 2002 Folio Award winner for Editorial Excellence, *Advocate.com*. The layouts and photographs—often coming together at the last second for the best news coverage—are the result of the persistence and resourcefulness of Mark Harvey (art director) and Michele Fleury (photo editor). Other art and editorial staff who work on more than one magazine at LPI, including *The Advocate* (Craig Edwards, Michael Matson, Allison Moryl, Christine LaPorte, Trudy Ring, Christopher Church, Mike Grippi, Matthew Van Atta, T.

Rhae Watson, Michael Edwards, Bob Adams, and Rob Chin), are absolutely invaluable to the biweekly creation and re-creation of this one-of-a-kind publication.

The one important person I have yet to mention is Bruce Steele. After serving as the magazine's executive editor for three years, Bruce spent 2002 as the editor, directing much of *The Advocate's* outstanding content. Difficult as it is for me to hand over the reins of this extraordinary magazine, I am completely confident and excited about Bruce's well-earned ascent into this prestigious position. Beginning January 1, *The Advocate* will have a new editor in chief. Bruce Steele is the perfect choice to run the daily triumphs and heartaches of this wondrous publication. I congratulate Bruce and his herculean team! You helped turn this important promise to myself into a reality. So I thank you as you begin your journey, carrying with you a little piece of my heart forever. ■

**No magazine makes history because of its top editor.  
And if it does, *that* won't last long. It's all about the staff.**

## January

**Three Saudi Arabian men** are beheaded for homosexuality. According to a government press release, the men were killed because they "committed acts of sodomy, married each other, seduced young men, and attacked those who rebuked them."

Acting Massachusetts governor **Jane Swift**, a Republican, names **Patrick Guerriero** as her running mate. The first openly gay candidate to be selected to run with a sitting U.S. governor, Guerriero drops out of the race in April, soon after Swift decides she won't run.

AIDS activist and author **Larry Kramer** is released from a Pittsburgh hospital two weeks after undergoing a successful liver transplant.

New York governor **George Pataki** calls for the passage of the Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act at his state of the state address, receiving a standing ovation.

Cable networks **MTV** and **Showtime** announce that they are developing a gay and lesbian cable channel. No date is set for its launch.

Nearly **140 gay and lesbian couples** in California register as domestic partners when a new law takes effect that gives registered same-sex couples many of the same benefits as married couples.

A California judge rules that the **San Francisco AIDS Foundation** and the **Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center**, non-

profits that were former beneficiaries of the **Pallotta TeamWorks**-organized California AIDS Ride, can hold their own ride separate from Pallotta's for-profit ride.

**Maggie McIntosh**, a 10-year Maryland state delegate and the majority leader of the house of delegates,

## February

The **American Academy of Pediatrics** officially endorses adoption by gay people.

A **Montana lesbian couple's** home is gutted by fire, most likely as retribution for their fight for health benefits at the University of

After spending 73 days in a San Francisco jail on charges of harassing, stalking, and making criminal threats to researchers, public health officials, and journalists, controversial AIDS activists **Michael Petrelis** and **David Pasquarelli** are released.

In the unanimous Alabama state supreme court decision against a lesbian mother's attempt to gain custody of her children, chief justice **Roy Moore** writes that homosexuality is "an inherent evil" and shouldn't be tolerated.

Antigay Oregon activist **Lon Mabon** is arrested for contempt of court after failing to attend two court hearings related to a 10-year-old case involving a gay activist who was attacked by a former employee of Mabon's Oregon Citizens Alliance. He spends 42 days in jail.

The **Massachusetts supreme court** refuses to throw out two antigay sodomy laws that date back to colonial times. However, the court did say that district attorneys have agreed not to prosecute anyone under the laws unless the sexual acts are conducted in public or are not consensual.

**Clinton Scott Risetter**, 37, of Santa Barbara, Calif., dies after being doused with gasoline and set on fire. Martin Thomas Hartmann, who confesses to setting Risetter on fire, says he did it because Risetter was gay.

**Jerold Krieger**, a Los Angeles municipal and superior court judge who helped found what is believed to be the world's first

# NEWS OF THE YEAR

## MARCH



After accepting an award for his government's successful campaign against AIDS, Ugandan president **Yoweri Museveni** declares that his country has no gay people.

becomes the state's first legislator to come out of the closet.

A **Georgia appellate court** rules that a Vermont civil union does not create a legal partnership in Georgia.

President Bush appoints former Oklahoma U.S. representative **Tom Coburn**, who often has challenged the effectiveness of condom use as a strategy for fighting AIDS, as cochair of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS.

Montana. By year's end the police investigation suggests that the women themselves are considered among the suspects in the arson.

The 2.6 million-member **National Education Association** adopts a policy asking school districts to protect gay and lesbian students and staff members.

Former movie leading man **George Nader**, who came out in 1986, dies at age 80. Nader starred in *Six Bridges to Cross* and *Lady Godiva*.



gay and lesbian synagogue, dies of cancer at 58.

## March

A law legalizing gay partnerships goes into effect in **Finland**.

Pope John Paul II's spokesman **Joaquin Navarro-Valls** tells *The New York Times* that "people with [homosexual] inclinations just cannot be ordained" as priests.

**Nine former Florida state legislators** who helped pass the state's ban on adoptions by gay men and lesbians in 1977 say their support for the bill was wrong.

**Will Young**, a singer who was the winner of the U.K. reality show *Pop Idol*, comes out.

**Seven gay couples** go to court in Massachusetts to force the state to issue them marriage licenses. Less than two months later the court rules that the matter should be decided in the legislature.

**Servicemembers Legal Defense Network** releases a report showing that 1,250 U.S. service members were discharged in 2001 because of their homosexuality. It's the highest number of gay-related discharges since 1987.

The Kansas supreme court rules that only marriages between "two parties who are of the opposite sex" are recognized by the state legislature. The case involves **J'Noel Gardiner**, a transgendered woman who was seeking access to part of her late husband's estate.

The court says Gardiner is not legally a woman and therefore cannot be married to a man.

**Marjorie Knoller** and **Robert Noel**, the owners of two dogs that killed lesbian Diane Whipple in San Francisco in 2001, are found guilty on all counts facing them.

A Mississippi judge, **Connie Glenn Wilkerson**, writes a letter to his local newspaper, stating, "In my opinion, gays and lesbians should be put in some type of mental institute instead of having a [domestic-partnership] law like this passed for them." Wilkerson was referring to a recent news article about the ability of gay survivors

the city's antidiscrimination law is upheld by voters on November 5.

## May

**The Reverend Paul Shanley**, a gay man and one of the priests embroiled in the Catholic priest sex abuse scandal, is arrested on three counts of child rape. He pleads innocent to all charges.

New York City mayor **Michael Bloomberg** signs a bill outlawing discrimination against transgendered people.

**Pim Fortuyn**, 53, an openly gay populist leader who was making a spectacular run for the Dutch parliament, is murdered by an environmental activist.

Renowned openly gay makeup artist to the stars **Kevyn Aucoin**, 40, dies of complications relating to a metabolic disorder.

The **Dallas city council** passes an ordinance banning discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

A group calling itself the **Alliance for Marriage** introduces to Congress a proposed constitutional amendment declaring that marriage "shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman."

The **Ohio supreme court** rules that a state law criminalizing expressions of sexual interest between people of the same sex is unconstitutional.

Ford Motor Co. pulls openly gay former executive ►

## MARCH



Broward County, Fla.'s teacher of the year, **Connie Hines**, comes out during her speech accepting the award. "Sometimes the gay issue is used against us," she says. "If my being out helps another teacher come out, it's worth it."

The **Louisiana supreme court** refuses to overturn the state's 200-year-old ban on sodomy.

to sue for the wrongful death of their partners.

Vice President Dick Cheney's lesbian daughter, **Mary Cheney**, who has declined to discuss her sexual orientation since her father's election, joins the board of the Republican Unity Coalition, a gay-straight political alliance.

The **Tacoma, Wash., city council** passes a ban on discrimination against gay, lesbian, and transgendered people. This amendment to

## April

**Darrell David Rice** is indicted for the 1996 slayings of two female hikers in a federal park in Virginia. Already in prison on other charges, Rice tells authorities that Julianne Williams and Laura "Lollie" Winans "deserved to die because they were lesbian."

**Allan Gilmour**, 67, out of retirement and appoints him as vice chairman and chief financial officer.

The **Indiana court of appeals** rules that judges in the state cannot deny custody or visitation to gay parents simply because they live with a partner of the same sex.

**German lawmakers** pardon about 50,000 gay men who were convicted in Nazi-era Germany and sent to concentration camps.

New York Mets catcher **Mike Piazza** announces that he is straight, in response to rumors that one of the team's members is gay. "I can't control what people think," Piazza says. "I date women."

**Alan P. Bell**, a researcher at the Kinsey Institute who assisted in the groundbreaking study that countered the idea that gay people were maladjusted, dies at age 70.

## June

**Whitman-Walker Clinic and Food and Friends**, the beneficiaries of the Washington, D.C., AIDS Ride, announce that they will no longer participate in the Pallotta TeamWorks event.

The U.S. Supreme Court rules that **Calvin Burdine**, an openly gay convicted murderer whose lawyer slept through much of his trial in Texas, must be set free or be given a new trial. Texas prosecutors decide to retry Burdine.

Connecticut governor **John G. Rowland** signs a bill extending certain legal rights

to same-sex couples, and he orders the legislature to study the policy issue of marriage and civil unions for gay and lesbian couples.

**Shaun Murphy**, 19, who had pleaded guilty to the 2001 murder of transgendered teenager Fred Martinez in Cortez, Colo., is sentenced to 40 years in prison.

dog mauling that resulted in the death of her lesbian neighbor **Diane Whipple**. He says the evidence does not support a murder conviction because Knoller had no way of knowing her dogs would kill someone. She is later sentenced to four years in prison on charges of manslaughter and having a mischievous dog that killed a person.

## MAY



A judge in Ontario, Canada, rules that Marc Hall (right), a 17-year-old student at a Roman Catholic high school in Oshawa, cannot be barred from bringing his 21-year-old boyfriend to prom.

**Swedish legislators** vote to allow same-sex couples to adopt children. The policy goes into effect in October.

The Canadian province of **Quebec** legalizes civil unions for same-sex couples and gives gay and lesbian couples the right to adopt children.

A San Francisco judge overturns the second-degree murder conviction of **Margorie Knoller** in the 2001

**President Bush** signs legislation allowing death benefits for public safety officers killed on September 11 to go to a beneficiary other than an immediate family member, including a same-sex partner.

**Seven same-sex couples** file suit in New Jersey state court to gain full marriage rights.

The **Egyptian government** decides to retry 50 of the 52

men who were originally tried in 2001 for allegedly having sex on a Nile River boat club.

## July

Hollywood mogul **Michael Ovitz** tells *Vanity Fair* that the "gay mafia" is to blame for his career's collapse.

A gay Idaho man who is told to stop living with his partner or lose the right to have visits with his children takes his case to the state supreme court. **Theron McGriff's** partner moves into a mobile home parked outside the couple's home so McGriff's children can visit their father.

The **Arkansas supreme court** overturns the state's antigay sodomy law.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says that **75% of young urban gays** in the United States who are infected with HIV do not know they carry the virus.

After a decade of congressionally imposed barriers, **Washington, D.C.**, begins issuing certificates of registration to same-sex domestic partners.

A three-judge panel of **Ontario, Canada's superior court** rules that the province must begin to recognize same-sex partnerships.

The **German supreme court** upholds the country's law recognizing same-sex partnerships.

**Lawmakers in Massachusetts** kill a citizen-initiated ballot question that aimed to ban recognition of same-sex marriages. ►



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President Bush's openly gay AIDS czar, **Scott Evertz**, is replaced by physician Joseph O'Neill. Evertz stays in the administration, however, overseeing global AIDS initiatives.

Gay-friendly **Rowan Williams** is named the next archbishop of Canterbury, replacing George Carey, who retires in October.

Beneficiaries of the Heartland AIDS Ride in **Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois** announce they will no longer participate in the Pallotta TeamWorks event.

*The Fayetteville Observer* in North Carolina starts running same-sex union announcements, sparking a new trend among newspapers nationwide, including, most significantly, *The New York Times*.

**Westbrook, Maine**, becomes the 12th city in the state to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation. The ordinance is later upheld by voters on November 5.

## August

Texas Rangers pitcher **John Rocker** finds himself in another scandal after calling a male couple sitting next to him at a Dallas restaurant "fruitcakes." He later issues a written apology.

**Pat Williams**, a senior vice president of the parent company of the WNBA's Orlando Miracle, upsets fans—especially the team's lesbian fans—when he sends a letter to the Orlando city council in opposition to a proposal that

would ban antigay discrimination in the city.

The Washoe County, Nev., school district unanimously endorses a settlement with gay former student **Derek Henkle**, who sued the district for failing to protect him from antigay harassment. The settlement includes \$451,000 and changes to the district's antiharassment

follows a suit filed by two lesbian students in 1998.

Two transgendered teens, **Ukea Davis** and **Stephanie Thomas**, are gunned down in Washington, D.C., while sitting in the front seat of Thomas's car. There are at least 10 bullet wounds in each of their bodies, prompting police to suggest the murder is bias-motivated.

## JULY



A surrogate mother gives birth to quadruplets for a Kentucky gay couple, Thomas Dysarz (left) and Michael Meehan. Meehan is the biological father to the three boys—Michael, Jacob, and Tristan—and one girl, Taylor.

policies to better protect gay and lesbian students.

Openly gay Boston surgeon **David Arndt** has his medical license suspended when, in the middle of performing surgery, he leaves the hospital for 35 minutes to make a bank deposit.

**Yeshiva University** in New York City changes its housing policy to allow same-sex couples to live in on-campus housing. The policy change

The Visalia, Calif., school district announces a settlement with gay former student **George Loomis**, who sued the district in 2000 for not protecting him from harassment. The settlement includes significant changes in the district's policies regarding sexual orientation and \$130,000 for Loomis.

After accepting an award from the state's council of the Boy Scouts of America, Hawaii first lady **Vicky**

**Cayetano** writes a letter to a Honolulu paper taking on the Scouts' antigay policy.

New York City mayor **Michael Bloomberg** signs a law extending city same-sex domestic-partner benefits to visiting gay and lesbian couples who are registered partners in their home areas.

**The Pennsylvania supreme court** rules that a child may be adopted by a parent's legal partner in cases where the partners are of the same sex. The decision means children in gay families now qualify for health insurance, inheritance rights, and other benefits.

Openly gay former Enron executive **Michael Kopper** pleads guilty to money laundering and wire fraud. He is the first to admit guilt in the aftermath of the former energy behemoth's implosion in 2001.

**Three Indiana gay and lesbian couples** file lawsuits pressing the state to recognize the same-sex unions they had performed in Vermont.

A new **New York state law** allows the lesbians and gay men whose partners were killed in the September 11 terrorist attacks to receive spousal benefits from insurance companies.

Threatened by political smears regarding her sexual orientation, Colorado state representative **Jennifer Veiga** comes out as a lesbian. She is reelected in November.

AIDS Ride organizer **Pallotta TeamWorks** shuts its ►



# WHAT KALETRA HAS TO OFFER MAY SURPRISE YOU



ASK YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT  
**kaletra**<sup>®</sup>  
(lopinavir/ritonavir)  
FOR THE TREATMENT OF HIV

KALETRA is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection in combination with other antiretroviral agents in patients 6 months of age or older. KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS and does not reduce the risk of passing of HIV to others.

#### Safety Information

KALETRA should not be taken if you have had an allergic reaction to KALETRA or any of its ingredients.

KALETRA must not be taken with certain drugs due to the potential for serious and/or life-threatening side effects. Discuss all medicines, including those without a prescription and herbal preparations, you are taking or plan to take with your doctor or pharmacist.

Pancreatitis and liver problems, which may cause death, have been reported in patients receiving KALETRA. Tell your doctor if you have

or have had liver disease such as hepatitis. Your doctor may want to monitor your liver function. In patients taking protease inhibitors, increased bleeding (in patients with hemophilia) and diabetes/high blood sugar have occurred. Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients receiving antiretroviral therapy. Some patients receiving KALETRA have had large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol.

The most commonly reported side effects of moderate or severe intensity are: abnormal bowel movements, diarrhea, feeling weak or tired, headache, and nausea. Children most often reported diarrhea, rash, taste aversion, and vomiting.

KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol.

[www.kaletra.com](http://www.kaletra.com)  
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Abbott Park, IL 60064

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May 2002

Printed in USA

Please see adjacent page for Patient Information.

# KALETRA™ (lopinavir/ritonavir) capsules (lopinavir/ritonavir) oral solution

**ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with KALETRA.** Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

## Patient Information

### KALETRA™ (kuh-LEE-ira)

Generic Name: lopinavir/ritonavir  
(lop-IN-uh-veer/rit-ON-uh-veer)

Read this leaflet carefully before you start taking KALETRA. Also, read it each time you get your KALETRA prescription refilled, in case something has changed. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor when you start this medicine and at check ups. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about KALETRA.

#### What is KALETRA and how does it work?

KALETRA is a combination of two medicines. They are lopinavir and ritonavir. KALETRA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor. KALETRA always is used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. KALETRA is for adults and for children age 6 months and older.

HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

KALETRA blocks HIV protease, a chemical which is needed for HIV to multiply. KALETRA reduces the amount of HIV in your blood and increases the number of T cells. Reducing the amount of HIV in the blood reduces the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

#### Does KALETRA cure HIV or AIDS?

KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of KALETRA are not known at this time. People taking KALETRA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections.

#### Does KALETRA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

KALETRA does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

#### How should I take KALETRA?

- You should stay under a doctor's care when taking KALETRA. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.
- You must take KALETRA every day exactly as your doctor prescribed it. The dose of KALETRA may be different for you than for other patients. Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.
- Dosing in adults (including children 12 years of age and older): The usual dose for adults is 3 capsules (400/150 mg) or 5.0 mL of the oral solution twice a day (morning and night), in combination with other anti-HIV medicines.
- Dosing in children from 6 months to 12 years of age: Children from 6 months to 12 years of age can also take KALETRA. The child's doctor will decide the right dose based on the child's weight.
- Take KALETRA with food to help it work better.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking KALETRA without first talking with your doctor.
- When your KALETRA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to KALETRA and become harder to treat.
- Be sure to set up a schedule and follow it carefully.
- Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give KALETRA to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

#### What should I do if I miss a dose of KALETRA?

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of KALETRA, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

#### What happens if I take too much KALETRA?

If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of this medicine, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

As with all prescription medicines, KALETRA should be kept out

of the reach of young children. KALETRA liquid contains a large amount of alcohol. If a toddler or young child accidentally drinks more than the recommended dose of KALETRA, it could make him/her sick from too much alcohol. Contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately if this happens.

#### Who should not take KALETRA?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether KALETRA is right for you.

- Do not take KALETRA if you are taking certain medicines. These could cause serious side effects that could cause death. Before you take KALETRA, you must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take. These include other prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal supplements.

For more information about medicines you should not take with KALETRA, please read the section titled "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

- Do not take KALETRA if you have an allergy to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including ritonavir or lopinavir.

#### Can I take KALETRA with other medications?\*

KALETRA may interact with other medicines, including those you take without a prescription. You must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or planning to take before you take KALETRA.

#### MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA:

- Do not take the following medicines with KALETRA because they can cause serious problems or death if taken with KALETRA.
  - Dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine and other vasoconstrictors such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergostrate Maleate, Methergine, and others
  - Halcion® (triazolam)
  - Hismanal® (astemizole)
  - Drap® (pimozide)
  - Propulsid® (cisapride)
  - Rhythmol® (propafenone)
  - Seldane® (terfenadine)
  - Tambocor™ (flecainide)
  - Versed® (midazolam)

Do not take KALETRA with rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamater®. Rifampin may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

- Do not take KALETRA with St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product used as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease KALETRA levels and lead to increased viral load and resistance to KALETRA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV medicines.

- Do not take KALETRA with the cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between KALETRA and Lipitor® (atorvastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with KALETRA.

#### Medicines that require dosage adjustments:

It is possible that your doctor may need to increase or decrease the dose of other medicines when you are also taking KALETRA. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take.

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with KALETRA, talk to your doctor about problems these two medicines can cause when taken together. You may get increased side effects of VIAGRA, such as low blood pressure, vision changes, and penis erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, get medical help right away to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

- If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraception since KALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

• Efavirenz (Sustiva™) or nevirapine (Viramune™) may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking efavirenz or nevirapine.

- If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.

• A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:

- Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
  - Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)
- These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

- Other Special Considerations: KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.

- If you are taking both didanosine (Videx®) and KALETRA: Didanosine should be taken one hour before or two hours after KALETRA.

#### What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

\* This list of side effects is not complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.

- The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that are thought to be drug related are: abnormal stools (bowel movements), diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.

• Blood tests in patients taking KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including death have occurred in patients taking KALETRA. In studies, it is unclear if KALETRA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.

- Some patients taking KALETRA can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis), which may cause death. You have a higher chance of having pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.

• Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.

- Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) occur in patients taking protease inhibitors such as KALETRA. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others needed new diabetes medicine.

• Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking antiretroviral therapy. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.

• There have been other side effects in patients taking KALETRA. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

#### What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

• If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant: The effects of KALETRA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.

- If you are breast-feeding: Do not breast-feed if you are taking KALETRA. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that HIV can be transmitted through breast-feeding.

• If you have liver problems: If you have liver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking KALETRA.

- If you have diabetes: Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst or frequent urination.

• If you have hemophilia: Patients taking KALETRA may have increased bleeding.

#### How do I store KALETRA?

- Keep KALETRA and all other medicines out of the reach of children.

• Refrigerated KALETRA capsules and oral solution remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. If stored at room temperature up to 77°F (25°C), KALETRA capsules and oral solution should be used within 2 months.

- Avoid exposure to excessive heat.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw away medicine, it is out of the reach of children.

#### General advice about prescription medicines:

Talk to your doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about this medicine that was written for health care professionals. Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other people.

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Revised: January, 2002

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doors, laying off more than 250 employees.

**Harvard Law School**, which banned visits by military recruiters because of antigay military policies, allows recruiters back on campus after the federal government threatens to cut funding to the school. Law schools at other prominent U.S. universities, including Yale, are pressured to allow recruiters back on campus as well.

**Gay Republicans** in California release a questionnaire with Bill Simon, the GOP candidate for governor, showing that the previously antigay Simon has softened his position on gay issues. After an outcry from his supporters, Simon says he never saw the questionnaire and that it was signed by automation. The debacle deals one of several critical blows to the Simon campaign.

**A Pennsylvania court** overturns a 1998 Philadelphia ordinance that recognizes same-sex partnerships, saying the law usurps the power of the state to regulate marriage. City officials promise to fight the ruling and say they will continue to recognize same-sex partnerships.

China's most prominent AIDS activist, **Wan Yanhai**, is taken into custody by government authorities on suspicion that he leaked state secrets. He is detained for close to a month.

## September

A West Hollywood, Calif., gay man, **Trev Broudy**, 33,

and his friend **Edward Lett**, 22, are beaten by a trio in an apparent antigay attack. Broudy is knocked into a coma and spends more than a month in the hospital. Two more gay men are attacked in a similar manner over the next two weeks. The Los Angeles County district attorney sparks loud protests when the three men charged in

Openly gay reverend **Mel White** and his partner, **Gary Nixon**, rent a home across the street from the Reverend Jerry Falwell's church in Lynchburg, Va., to show congregants that gay people can live Christian lives.

An **Oklahoma City** ordinance that kept a gay pride group's banners off city

man, died on American Airlines Flight 11 on September 11, 2001.

Movie star **Ben Affleck** announces that he will appear alongside his gay cousin in a new ad for Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

**California** becomes the first state in the nation to pass a gay-inclusive paid family leave program.

**Douglas Fauneuil**, an openly gay assistant at Merrill Lynch & Co., pleads guilty to misdemeanor charges in the ImClone-Martha Stewart stock scandal and agrees to tell prosecutors what he knows about the stock sale.

## October

**Bertrand Delanoë**, the openly gay mayor of Paris, is stabbed in the stomach during an all-night party at Paris City Hall.

Lesbian serial killer **Aileen Wuornos** is executed in Florida, more than a decade after she murdered six men along central Florida highways while working as a prostitute.

**Tom Cruise** drops his lawsuit against Kristina Ann Kirstin, who claimed in a *National Enquirer* article that the movie star had had an affair with her ex-husband, gay-porn star Chad Slater (a.k.a. Kyle Bradford).

The **Michigan court of appeals** throws out a jury's \$29.3 million award against the *Jenny Jones* show, saying the talk show had no ►

## OCTOBER



Transgendered teenager **Eddie "Gwen" Araujo** is murdered in Newark, Calif., and buried in a shallow grave; police are led to the site two weeks later. Police say she was murdered after boys with whom she'd allegedly had sex discovered she was a biological male.

the attacks do not end up facing hate-crime charges.

Boston University chancellor **John Silber** orders the headmaster of the Boston University Academy to disband a gay-straight alliance at the school, sparking loud protests from BU students.

Voters in Florida's **Miami-Dade County** reject a bid to overturn a 1998 gay rights ordinance.

light poles is struck down by a federal judge, who says it is an infringement of free speech rights.

California passes a law allowing registered domestic partners to inherit one another's property when partners die without leaving a will. The measure was championed by **Keith Bradkowski**, a hospital administrator whose partner, flight attendant Jeff Coll-

legal duty to protect a guest who was murdered in 1995 after revealing he had a crush on another man.

**Sen. Paul Wellstone**, one of the staunchest supporters of gay rights in Congress, is killed in a plane crash. The 58-year-old had been accompanied by his wife, Sheila, and their daughter, Marcia, along with five other people.

**Harry Hay**, founder of the Mattachine Society and the Radical Faeries, dies at 90.

Defensive tackle **Esera Tuaolo**, who played for five National Football League teams during his nine years as a pro, comes out.

## November

Voters in **Sarasota, Fla.**; **Westbrook, Maine**; **Ypsilanti, Mich.**; and **Tacoma, Wash.**, support gay rights initiatives at the ballot box. The only Election Day ballot measure defeat comes in Nevada, where voters support a constitutional amendment banning recognition of same-sex marriage.

**David Cicilline** is elected mayor of Providence, R.I., becoming the first openly gay mayor of a U.S. state capital and making Providence the largest U.S. city with an openly gay mayor.

Almost 13,000 participants from 83 countries descend on Sydney for the **2002 Gay Games**.

The **Chicago city council** passes an ordinance that prohibits discrimination based on gender identity or expression. Cook Coun-

ty then follows the city's lead and passes the same protections.

More than 2,000 people stage a protest against a gay-straight alliance at a **Boyd County, Ky., high school**. The religious-themed demonstration follows an earlier protest in which more than 40% of the school's students stayed home from class to show

cide in the Shasta County, Calif., jail.

The **Baltimore city council** passes a bill outlawing discrimination based on gender identity or expression—making the city the 53rd in the nation to prohibit such discrimination.

**Rich Tafel** resigns as executive director of the gay group Log Cabin Republi-

## NOVEMBER



**Uzi Even** is sworn in as the first openly gay member of Israel's parliament, the Knesset. "My joining the Knesset [is] a very important step for every gay," he says. "The message is that you no longer have to be ashamed."

their opposition to the GSA's formation.

Out lesbian **Bonnie Dumanis** is elected San Diego County district attorney, becoming the first openly gay district attorney in the country.

**Benjamin Williams**, 34, a white supremacist who is awaiting trial along with his brother for the 1999 murder of a Northern California gay couple, commits sui-

cide after more than a decade at the post. **Patrick Guerriero**, a former candidate for Massachusetts lieutenant governor and former mayor of Melrose, Mass., takes Tafel's place.

**Lockheed Martin Corp.**, the nation's largest defense contractor, adds sexual orientation to its antidiscrimination policy and begins offering health benefits to the domestic partners of its gay employees.

## December

The **U.S. Supreme Court** announces that it will hear a challenge to Texas's anti-gay sodomy law. It will be the first time the court considers laws banning same-sex sexual activity since 1986, when it upheld Georgia's law in *Bowers v. Hardwick*. The Texas case involves two gay men who were arrested in one of the men's apartments while engaging in private, consensual sex.

The **Orlando, Fla., city council** adds sexual orientation to the city's antidiscrimination law.

The board of the corporation that owns **Cracker Barrel** restaurants announces that it is adding sexual orientation to its nondiscrimination policy, more than a decade after instituting a policy of firing employees who fail to "demonstrate normal heterosexual values."

Officials in Sydney announce that the company that ran the **2002 Gay Games** is in debt by more than \$2.5 million. The October terrorist bombing on the Indonesian island of Bali is blamed for lower-than-expected turnout at the Gay Games.

Vatican official **Jorge Arturo Medina Estevez** publishes a letter calling the ordination of gay men as priests "inadvisable," "imprudent," and "very risky."

Murdered openly gay Dutch maverick **Pim Fortuyn** is named the European Union's politician of the year. ■



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**Norwegian Dawn from Miami**  
January 25 - February 1

### More all-gay vacations

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**Club Atlantis Cancun Resort**  
May 3 - 10

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June 22 - 29

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August 30 - September 6

**Mexican Riviera Cruise**  
October 19 - 26

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THE WAY WE PLAY

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# The Covers 2002

Controversy, culture, and coming out: 24 windows into the year just past



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# Rants & Raves

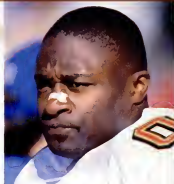
The debate over homophobia in sports in 2002 moved beyond merely condemning new John Rocker insults to become a heated argument about whether it's downright dangerous for team athletes to come out. Gay ex-baseball pro Billy Bean caught hell for saying on HBO's *Arli\$S* that it's safer in the closet, gay ex-football pro Esera Tuaolo defied all naysayers by proclaiming his sexuality, and the WNBA found that out players and coaches coexist with antigay executives. And everyone had an opinion.



## "I am."

—Sue Wicks, forward for the WNBA's New York Liberty, answering the question "Are you a lesbian?" as quoted in the May 30–June 6 issue of *Time Out New York*

"Aww, hell no! I don't want any faggots on my team. I know this might not be what people want to hear, but that's a punk. I don't want any faggots in this locker room."  
—Garrison Hearst, San Francisco 49ers running back, as quoted in *The Fresno [Calif.] Bee*, November 1



"The players are a diverse enough group now that I think they could handle [an openly gay player]."  
—Former New York Mets manager Bobby Valentine, as quoted in the June–July issue of *Details* magazine

"No.... You know they're going to be in the shower with us.... I don't think that's going to work."  
—Jeremy Shockey, New York Giants tight end, when asked if there are gay NFL players, on *Howard Stern's* syndicated radio talk show, September 10



"I have [openly gay players] on my team.... There is absolutely no discrimination from any team member or member of my staff."  
—Stacy Johnson-Klein, basketball coach of the California State University, Fresno, Lady Bulldogs, as quoted in *The Fresno Bee*, November 1

"That's a baseball question. I'm not comfortable with baseball questions."  
—NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue, upon being asked whether pro football is ready for an openly gay player, as quoted in *The [Newark, N.J.] Star-Ledger*, May 30



"As long as he didn't lead the parade on Gay Rights Day, it was OK with us."  
—Jeff Novak, former offensive lineman for the Jacksonville Jaguars, who says players knew Esera Tuaolo was gay when both men played for the team in 1997, as quoted in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, November 1



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keeps on working.**


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# Remembering Harry

Essayist and former  
*Advocate* editor

**Mark Thompson**  
describes the heart  
and spirit of his friend  
the late Harry Hay

The first thing Harry Hay ever told me was to pull off my ugly green frog skin of heterosexual conformity. It was May Day, 1979, and I had just gotten off a plane from San Francisco, where gay people danced naked in the streets. There wasn't too much hetero-imitative behavior as far as I could see. And as for that ugly green frog suit, well, perhaps only as a really bad piece of drag.

Who was this character? A gay father figure with an overly active imagination? Or some kind of queer sage, a little too bent to fully comprehend? I decided to keep on listening. And now, 23 years later, I am so glad I did.

Hay and I met that afternoon in a small apartment near the Hollywood hills to discuss upcoming plans for the first-ever Spiritual Conference for Radical Faeries. I'd convinced my superiors at *The Advocate* to publish the interview, although it was a tough sell. Nobody quite knew what a "radical faerie" was (including, I'm convinced, the organizers of the conference). Yet it sure sounded grand, even romantic enough to capture the attention of readers. It did. More than 200 gay men from across North America arrived at a remote Arizona oasis by summer's end, kick-starting



## Through the decades

Hay in a 1935 publicity photo for a play (left) and later with his lifetime partner, John Burnside (above, left), whom he met in 1963

an international movement that flourishes to this day.

*Grand. Romantic.* Two words that perfectly capture Harry's essence. Except for some references in works by scholars Jonathan Ned Katz and John D'Emilio, not much was known in the late 1970s about the founder of the modern gay liberation movement. Time and better-publicized figures had passed him by. He and his partner of many years,

John Burnside, had been out of sight living on a pueblo in New Mexico. But the renewed call for a more inward kind of gay activism had pulled him back into the public eye, where he stayed for the next two decades until his death in San Francisco this past October 24 at age 90.

Harry loved to talk and could expound eloquently on just about any topic. He hadn't been nicknamed "The Dowager" for nothing back in



Hay (far left) during an early gathering of the Mattachine Society, which he founded in Los Angeles in 1950

the 1930s, when he was introduced to the Communist Party by actor-boyfriend Will Geer. From the origins of democracy to fashion, Harry covered the conversational waterfront. (One of his many cohorts had been topsless swimsuit inventor Rudi Gernreich.) Nothing escaped his attention, particularly if it informed his theories about gay consciousness.

His central idea—as revolutionary then as now—is that gay people have a special role to play in human evolution. He was the first to insist that we are a separate, distinct minority with certain traits and talents, mainly in the areas of teaching, healing, mediating opposites, and creating beauty. Harry's notion, or "call" as he put it, seemed fuzzy to a lot of people, especially those unable to differentiate between different and special.

As Harry made clear—no more painstakingly than over long hours at his kitchen table—being different meant "neither better nor inferior, but athwart." He loved using \$5 words like that. (Look it up. I did.) What he

**Hay was the first to insist that gay people are a separate, distinct minority with certain traits and talents, mainly in the areas of teaching, healing, mediating opposites, and creating beauty.**

was basically saying is that the "gay window"—our unique and often deeply ironic way of seeing—has something essentially wonderful to offer humanity.

For all his considerable charm, Harry could appear pompous and irritatingly obtuse. After an hour or two of such declamation, one just had to take a breather. Yet he also had a sly sense of humor—mixing anecdotes and allusions with as much savvy as he did his wardrobe. Who else but Harry could pull off pearls and a pink taffeta skirt worn over jeans and dusty work boots?

I remember the night we were so-

cializing at the San Francisco Art Institute at a gala tribute to the also-legendary gay poet and filmmaker James Broughton. Harry and James had sparked briefly as Stanford University undergraduates but didn't meet again until 50 years later at a faerie gathering. Few people knew that James had fathered a daughter with esteemed film critic Pauline Kael during their bohemian Berkeley days, but Harry was alert to the fact. Kael and Broughton were having their own reunion at the moment when, with typical impudence, Harry interrupted the conversation by loudly asking, ►



"'Tis a gift to be gay, and, honey, don't you ever forget it," Hay said just before the portrait below was shot in Wolf Creek, Ore., on his 75th birthday in 1987. Above: Hundreds of Radical Faeries, a group Hay started in 1979, gather in Sonoma, Calif., in 1982.

"So, who was the mother and who was the father?" The stunned silence was punctured only by the whoosh of Kael's furious departure.

Harry was always giddy with me too—to loosen up, to see the bigger picture, to just be my total, fabulous, faerie self. I recorded many hours of conversation with him over the years and took dozens of photographs as well. My favorite happened at the end of a glorious August day, sitting together in an Oregon pasture where a faerie sanctuary had been established. Harry was on a didactical roll, explaining in vivid detail how he and a small band of very brave brothers had started the Mattachine Society in 1950 in Los Angeles—the first ongoing gay organization in the country.

I didn't want to interrupt, even though the burr beneath the thin sarong separating my behind from the dirt was really beginning to hurt. I held my camera ready until the perfect moment came. "'Tis a gift to be gay," he said, beaming, "and, honey, don't you ever forget it." In the photo he looks angelically backlit. The glow came from deep within.

In his passing, Harry Hay is not just the man of the year—he's the man of the century. Some might



wonder which century. The late 19th because of his philosophical ties with seminal thinkers of that era, such as Walt Whitman and British writer Edward Carpenter? Or the 20th because of his fierce commitment to social justice and change? Or perhaps the one upon us now, when the progress for gay civil rights is being widely enjoyed yet more profound understandings remain an enigma?

As far as I'm concerned, all of the above. Harry belongs in a core place

beyond the margins—a balancing act he singly perfected. Of all the contrary individuals I've met in the movement, Harry Hay possessed the one original true gay heart. A heartbeat, a voice, and a burr of conscience I continue to gratefully hear. ■

*A former Advocate editor, Thompson is also the author of several books, including Gay Spirit: Myth and Meaning and Long Road to Freedom: The Advocate History of the Gay and Lesbian Movement.*



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Frank Kameny in the attic of his Washington, D.C., home, which is filled with artifacts from the early days of the gay rights movement

# History makers

Where are the founders of the modern gay rights movement, and what is being done to preserve their stories?

**By Lisa Neff**

People keep telling Frank Kameny that he ought to write a book—a best-selling bombshell of an autobiography. A sort of *The Oldest Living Gay Activist Tells All*.

And the 77-year-old agrees that he probably should write his memoirs. For one thing, as a man who has devoted his life to the unprofitable profession of gay rights activist, Kameny says he could use the money. Then, of course, he also admits he's got a lot to say.

"It's a matter of getting around to it," says Kameny, who's lived in Washington, D.C., for the past 40 years and still makes rabble-raising speeches for groups such as the Servicemembers Legal Defense Fund. "I used to be very efficient, and now it's all I can do to keep up and keep current with things."

It took the death of one of the forefathers of the gay rights movement, Harry Hay, in October to remind some gay men and lesbians of the many early activists like Kameny who are still very much alive and still have a lot to say. And these activists aren't only talking about the movement's early days; they're also showing how their experience—and gay history in general—can help gay rights in the days to come.

If Hay, who founded the Mattachine Society in 1950, "gets the credit for throwing the [gay rights] switch from off to on," as Kameny puts it, then Kameny gets a lot of the credit for keeping the movement juiced.

A Harvard-trained astronomer, Kameny lost his job with the U.S. Army Map Service in 1957 after his arrest on a morals charge based on his sexual orientation. He fought the dismissal, taking a landmark discrimination suit against the federal government all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which refused to hear his case in 1961. In that decade he founded the D.C. chapter of the Mattachine Society, picketed the White House, the State Department, and the Civil Service Commission, and waged a campaign to repeal sodomy statutes across the country. In 1971 he ran for Congress, placing fourth in a six-person race.

"When I got into the movement, everything needed to be done," Kameny says. "I think those of us in the early years started with substantially nothing—politically, socially, and cul-

turally—and we created an enormously successful movement that led to change in ways that nobody would have anticipated in our wildest dreams in the '50s and '60s."

It was pioneers like Kameny, the Reverend Troy Perry, Barbara Gittings, Del Martin, and Phyllis Lyon, who during the not-so-gay-friendly mid 20th century established what we now know as the fundamental principals for the gay rights movement: that homosexuality is normal and that gay men and lesbians have inherent rights.

Perry, 62, a former Pentecostal minister who in 1968 founded the first Metropolitan Community Church, continues to serve as moderator of the MCC, which now has more than 40,000 members in more than 300

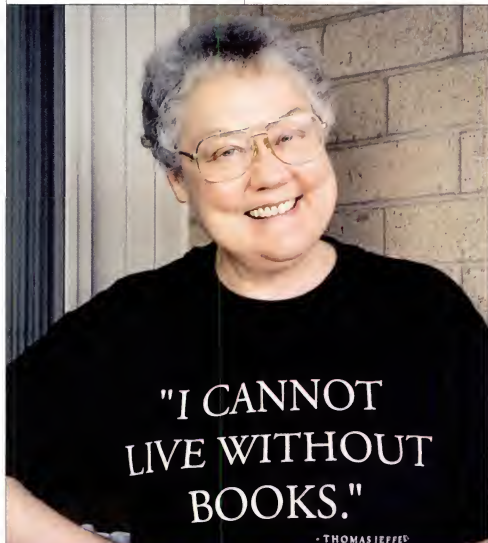
congregations in 17 countries.

Partners Martin and Lyon, the San Francisco couple who in 1955 founded the mother of all lesbian organizations in the United States, the Daughters of Bilitis, dedicate much of their time to issues about aging in the community.

"It's now on the [gay rights] agenda," Martin, 81, says.

"But it's taken a long time to get it there," Lyon, 78, adds. She and Martin, together almost 50 years, tend to complete each other's thoughts.

Gittings, 70, of Wilmington, Del., founded a New York Daughters of Bilitis chapter and, like Kameny, marched in picket lines at the White House and the Pentagon in the mid 1960s. She says for 44 years she's "had the satisfaction of working with other gay people..." ►



Barbara Gittings headed the American Library Association's gay task force for 15 years. In 2001, GLAAD created a media award in Gittings's name (of which *The Advocate* was a recipient in 2002).



Lifetime partners Phyllis Lyon (left) and Del Martin founded the mother of all lesbian organizations, the Daughters of Bilitis, in 1955.

to get the bigots off our backs, to oil the closet door hinges, to change prejudiced hearts and minds." When she got involved in the movement in 1958, she says, "There were scarcely 200 of us [activists] in the whole United States. It was like a club—we all knew each other."

But as Hay's death reminded us, many of the elder statesmen and stateswomen from the formative years before Stonewall are gone.

Martin mentions a name. "No, she's gone," Lyon says. Lyon mentions a name and then says, "But she's also dead." Kameny does the same, recalling the names of deceased colleagues from 30 to 40 years past. Many, he says, were forgotten before they passed on.

"We forget our pioneers, a lot of them," Perry says. "I can't blame people for that. There's a reason for it. In African-American families, children learn their history. In Native American families there's the same thing. But in the gay community, every young person who comes out of the closet has to look hard for his history in order to learn it." But where can one look for this history?

The attic in Kameny's two-story brick home in Washington's Palisades neighborhood is packed with artifacts of early gay rights rallies—papers and photographs and movement memorabilia, including the picket signs from mid-1960s protests. "I'm a pack rat," Kameny says. "I never throw anything away."

He recognizes, however, that he needs to draft a will and designate

someone to care for his collection. "This notion of a gay community with a history is a fairly new thing," he says.

Before Stonewall there were very few depositories for gay history. Today, universities and public libraries archive gay materials—most notably the New York and San Francisco public libraries, Cornell University, and the One Institute and Archives, located at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. There are also community-based archives in Chicago, Philadelphia, Minneapolis, San Francisco, and New York City, including a lesbian archives in Brooklyn. In addition, organizations such as the MCC keep historical records—photographs, newspaper clippings, drafts of lawsuits, mission statements, and correspondence.

"We wouldn't survive without our many gay-run archives," says Gittings, who for 15 years headed the American Library Association's gay task force and edited its gay bibliography. "They began collecting our materials when there wasn't much to preserve and no one outside our community was interested. They still operate on love and dedication. Admirable."

The National Center Archive at New York's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center is one of the largest collections, taking up about 1,000 square feet, according to Rich Wandel, the volunteer who founded the archives in 1990.

"Some of our best records are diaries," Wandel says. "Some are simple snapshots of a private party. We have

records from organizations. We have papers from people. We have a vast collection of periodicals. They come from everywhere. Sometimes we find them. Sometimes they just show up at the door."

Stored away in these community archives are photographs and papers documenting the transformation of a people who—in the two decades between the formation of Mattachine and the riots at the Stonewall Inn—went from believing there was something terribly wrong with them to believing there was something terribly wrong with society to believing "gay is good."

"Gay is good"—Kameny says he came up with the slogan in 1968 after watching a news report on a demonstration in Maryland, at which the late civil rights activist Stokely Carmichael led protesters in chanting, "Black is beautiful." Kameny saw a parallel and, with his fondness for alliteration, came up with "Gay is good." A few months later at a meeting in Chicago, the North American Conference of Homophile Organizations adopted the slogan.

"That's the fundamental point that has to be made," Kameny says. "The whole argument from the Right is that 'gay is bad.' So as an activist with a number of accomplishments, when people ask me what the one thing I want to be remembered for, I say it's coining the slogan 'Gay is good.'"

Perhaps, Kameny adds, he'll think more seriously about writing that book. ■

*Neff is managing editor of the Chicago Free Press.*



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### Does VIREAD cure HIV or AIDS?

VIREAD does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of VIREAD™ are not known at this time. People taking VIREAD may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections.

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### Who should not take VIREAD?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIREAD is right for you.

### Do not take VIREAD if

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- you are allergic to VIREAD or any of its ingredients

### What should I tell my doctor before taking VIREAD?

#### Tell your doctor

- If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant: The effects of VIREAD on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.
- If you are breast-feeding: Do not breast-feed if you are taking VIREAD. Do not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. If your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that the baby can get HIV through breast-feeding.
- Tell your doctor about all your medical conditions, especially liver and kidney problems.
- Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines and dietary supplements. VIREAD may increase the amount of Vindex (didanosine) in your blood. You may need to be followed more carefully if you are taking these two drugs together.

It is a good idea to keep a complete list of all the medicines that you take. Make a new list when medicines are added or stopped. Give copies of this list to all of your healthcare providers every time you visit your doctor or fill a prescription.

### How should I take VIREAD?

- Stay under a doctor's care when taking VIREAD. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.
- Take VIREAD every day exactly as your doctor prescribed it. Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label. Set up a dosing schedule and follow it carefully.

- The usual dose of VIREAD is 1 tablet once a day, in combination with other anti-HIV medicines.
- Take VIREAD with a meal. The amount of VIREAD in your blood increases with food. Taking it with food helps it work better.
- When your VIREAD supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to VIREAD and become harder to treat.
- Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIREAD to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

**What should I do if I miss a dose of VIREAD?** It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of VIREAD, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

### What happens if I take too much VIREAD?

If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of VIREAD, contact your local poison control center or emergency room right away.

As with all medicines, VIREAD should be kept out of reach of children.

### What should I avoid while taking VIREAD?

- Do not breast-feed. See "What should I tell my doctor before taking VIREAD?"

### What are the possible side effects of VIREAD?

- Clinical studies: The most common side effects of VIREAD are: diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and flatulence (intestinal gas).
- Marketing experience: Other side effects reported since VIREAD has been marketed include: weakness, inflammation of the pancreas, low blood phosphate, dizziness, shortness of breath, and rash.
- Some patients treated with VIREAD have had kidney problems. Your doctor may need to perform additional blood tests if you have had kidney problems in the past or need to take another drug that can cause kidney problems.
- VIREAD caused harm to the bones of animals. These effects have not been seen in persons taking VIREAD for up to one year. It is not known if the effects will be seen in persons taking VIREAD for longer periods of time.
- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicines. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.
- There have been other side effects in patients taking VIREAD. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.
- This list of side effects is not complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.

### How do I store VIREAD?

- Keep VIREAD and all other medications out of reach of children.
- Store VIREAD at room temperature 77°F (25°C). It should remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label.
- Do not keep your medicine in places that are too hot or cold.
- Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. If you throw away medicines away make sure that children will not find them.

### General advice about prescription medicines:

Talk to your doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about this medicine that was written for health care professionals. Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other people.

Revised: September 2002

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# Good heavens

The new archbishop of Canterbury speaks five languages and, in each one of them, says there's nothing sinful about being gay **By Michael Giltz**



Shortly before his election was confirmed December 2, Williams told the BBC that he can "see a case for acknowledging faithful same-sex relationships."

The Church of England has just appointed a new archbishop of Canterbury—the ceremonial leader of the Anglican Communion—and Rowan Williams already is making history. He's the first archbishop to come from outside England—in this case, Wales—for at least 1,000 years.

But more important, the 52-year-old Williams—whose election was confirmed December 2 and who will be officially enthroned in February—is an outspoken advocate for the inclusion of gay men and lesbians in the church. Married with two children, he's been active in supporting that cause for many years, has longtime friends who

are gay, and says he has ordained at least one noncelibate gay man. And all of this is making gay Episcopalians in the United States and Anglicans in the United Kingdom and around the world cautiously optimistic.

"I trust Rowan's instincts," says the Reverend Richard Kirker, who has known the archbishop for years and is general secretary of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement, a group set up in 1976 to speak for all Christians but dominated by Anglicans. "But I've cautioned in numerous letters and statements since his appointment not to have unrealistic expectations about how quickly Rowan is

prepared to use his influence.

"He's quite different from a Catholic bishop," Kirker explains. "Any decisions in the Anglican Communion have to be reached at the end of the day by consensus." (The Anglican Communion refers to the sister churches of the Church of England around the world, including the Episcopal Church in the United States.) "The archbishop of Canterbury is a titular figurehead," Kirker continues. "Strictly speaking, he has no authority outside his own diocese. Whatever influence or authority he does in reality exercise outside the diocese of Canterbury really is on the basis of the ►



The transition from George Carey (left) to Williams makes gay Episcopalians cautiously optimistic.

agreement of his colleagues. And if they don't like any of his ideas, they are perfectly entitled to ignore them. And they frequently do."

Not surprisingly, Williams's appointment—which was formally approved by Prime Minister Tony Blair and Queen Elizabeth II—has raised the ire of more fundamentalist Anglicans. The excitable British press has been filled with stories of a possible schism, about bishops shipping in more conservative priests from Africa to do a runaround on Williams, and a poll of ordained ministers saying 54% objected to ordaining noncelibate gay clergy.

Things may not be that dire. The same poll shows that most ordained ministers consider Williams—who in 1989 gave a landmark speech on sexuality called "The Body's Grace"—to be a healing rather than a divisive force in the Anglican Communion. But even in the United States, it's clear Williams's appointment has shaken things up.

"My perception is that his appointment split the evangelical wing of the church," says the Reverend Michael Hopkins, president of the gay Episcopal group Integrity and rector of St. George's Episcopal Church in Glenn

Dale, Md. "The more radical ones have made these really strong statements and asked him to not take the appointment. There have also been some moderate voices from there saying, 'Come on, this is a real bright guy. Let's give him a chance,'" Hopkins says. "That's been more the tone from conservatives in this country. I haven't heard many calls from conservatives [here] for him not to take the appointment."

Kirker agrees. "They are up in arms, and I'm delighted by that because they're doing us no harm at all," he says. "They're exposing their hatred and intolerance and prurience."

"There are threats left, right, and center. But I don't feel the Church of England is in meltdown. We've had huge rows and bust-ups in the past. Unlike the Catholic Church, we don't wrap it up in as much secrecy as possible."

In early November, hundreds of members of Integrity, the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement, Beyond Inclusion, and other gay rights groups met to strategize for the next general convention of the Episcopal Church, which takes place in July in Minneapolis. At the last convention, in 2000, a resolution to develop a rite to bless same-sex unions was narrowly defeat-

ed amid fears of creating turmoil throughout the Anglican Communion.

With Williams as the conciliatory, if symbolic, head of the church being likely to attend, advocates believe their time is now. Put simply, if someone as forthright as Williams can be named the archbishop of Canterbury without having the world come to an end, then the Episcopal Church in the United States can take the next logical step in recognizing the gay and lesbian people of faith in its midst without provoking a worldwide crisis.

"I don't hope for the whole communion to change its mind, frankly," Hopkins says, "because it's going to take a long time to change the minds of church leaders in Africa, for instance. But I do hope [Williams] is able to defuse the issue and make it much easier for member churches like the Episcopal Church to go ahead and do what they need to do. I think we're going to do that anyway next summer. But hopefully we'll be able to do that without significant portions of the rest of the world revolting."

Despite some bold pro-gay statements, such as telling the BBC that he can "see a case for acknowledging faithful same-sex relationships," Williams also has made soothing comments to right-wing forces. But if he hopes gay groups might let him settle in before facing these issues, he hopes in vain.

"There isn't any way that he's not going to have to tackle this right away," says Hopkins, who believes a resolution to develop a rite for blessing same-sex unions in the Episcopal Church will be passed in August, a mere six months after Williams takes office.

Kirker admits that "this isn't his issue," meaning gay rights is not the issue Williams would choose to push for first. "Genuinely, he doesn't want [gay issues] to be number 1. But I think it will be number 1. He will find the homosexual issue coming back time and time again, and so far as we can make a contribution to make sure that happens, I will make absolutely no apology for trying to make sure it does remain the number 1." ■

*Giltz is a regular contributor to several periodicals, including the New York Post.*





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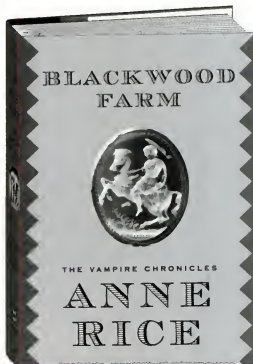
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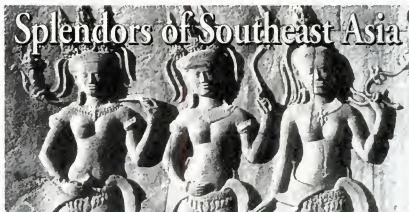
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# Building a better ride

With AIDS ride organizer Pallotta TeamWorks out of business, many AIDS groups are pinning their financial hopes on their own, smaller rides  
By Peter Freiberg

It's hard to know which came first: people's passion for huge, multiday AIDS fund-raisers or the grandfather of those fund-raisers, the AIDS rides. But by last August two things had become abundantly clear: People's interest in these events had waned, and—with the financial collapse of AIDS ride organizer Pallotta TeamWorks—AIDS service organizations were going to have to scramble to find new ways to raise the millions of dollars once generated by the popular rides.

Dan Pallotta's genius, according to AIDS group officials, was to devise and brilliantly market fund-raising events in which participants enlisted friends, family, and coworkers to donate to a cause they might have never before considered. Riders became "a whole legion of volunteers to raise money for us," says A. Cornelius Baker, executive director of Washington, D.C.'s Whitman-Walker Clinic.

Problems arose not from the events themselves, activists say, but from publicity and news reports about Pallotta TeamWorks's expenses and high price for producing the events—in at least one case eating up more than 90% of contributions. By 2001 that publicity got so bad that beneficiaries started to leave TeamWorks-organized events. Some riders also became disenchanted when organizers, they say, shifted the rides' focus to the event rather than to the cause at hand, HIV and AIDS. TeamWorks shut down three months after the Avon Foundation decided in May against retaining the firm to produce its 2003 breast cancer walks, when a hoped-for replacement for Avon bowed out.

In fact, TeamWorks's closure in it-

self isn't that big of a financial blow to AIDS groups, since so many of them had already severed ties or considered distancing themselves from the company. What could hurt, however, is trying to change fund-raising game plans during the deepest economic recession in decades.

Fund-raising was going to be tough in 2003 regardless of whether TeamWorks was there to help. AIDS groups are appealing for individual, corporate, and foundation donations following a stock market nosedive and in a stagnant economy. They find themselves competing with a growing number of other health causes for a shrinking number of private dollars. And as pressing news about domestic AIDS concerns takes a backseat to international AIDS issues, U.S. AIDS groups have to work harder than ever to convince potential donors that AIDS needs remain urgent. "AIDS is devastating Africa so much more than locally that when people think of HIV and AIDS, they don't think of next door," explains Kendall Farrell, executive director of Vermont CARES.

Private money will become even more crucial, many community health officials believe, because public funds likely will decline: State and local governments are financially strapped, and the Bush administration wants to cut outlays for social services.

Yet as these AIDS groups prepare for what promises to be one of the toughest fund-raising years yet, most of them are relying on revamped, TeamWorks-free AIDS rides to keep their doors open rather than attempting to reinvent the cash-cow formula. At the same time, they're hoping a more modest, back-to-basics ap-

proach will not only be more cost-effective but also bring back donors alienated by TeamWorks's for-profit marketing.

For example, Bob Power, executive director of south-central Wisconsin's AIDS Network, notes that his group as well as others in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Minnesota announced they were ending their participation in the Heartland AIDS Ride even before TeamWorks folded. Power says officials from the network, which received \$260,000 from the Heartland AIDS Ride over five years, decided to launch their own ride so that they could have "a charity event that focuses on the charity and not the event—that refocuses attention on AIDS."

AIDS Network is primarily using volunteers to produce its own ride next summer, which is planned to be smaller, shorter in distance, and less costly. The network also will sponsor its usual range of events—a black-tie dinner, a variety show, and an AIDS walk, which also saw a decline in contributions this past year. "I'm always asked, 'Can't someone just write out a check directly to the agency?'" Power says. "But I think [contributors] need something to be a part of to make that donation seem worthwhile."

In Chicago, where a local consortium of AIDS groups received \$7.5 million from the Heartland AIDS Ride over seven years, that consortium, AIDSCycle Inc., is now planning a smaller ride for 2003 that will reach out to former donors, especially gays turned off by "all the negative publicity about Pallotta," says AIDSCycle Inc. president Courtney Reid.

Similarly, the Los Angeles Gay ►

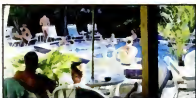


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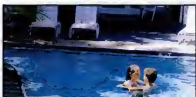
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**"We have to try to get people to give for the sake of giving," says AIDS Healthcare Foundation's Michael Weinstein. "That's not easy, but neither are events."**

and Lesbian Center and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation are proceeding cautiously with their second AIDS/LifeCycle ride. After breaking with TeamWorks in 2001, the center and the foundation organized their own ride, which competed last spring with TeamWorks's California AIDS Ride. The \$1.6 million net return was about 75% less than the amount garnered by the California AIDS Ride. Now the agencies are setting more conservative goals, says center interim director Rebecca Isaacs. The key, she says, is boosting the number of riders.

It is up to the AIDS organizations to portray the urgency of HIV-related needs, Isaacs says. One way to do this, she maintains, is with the "back-to-basics" approach the center used at its annual fund-raising dinner in November. Center officials spoke simply about "the people we serve and what we do," she says. "We didn't try to make it glamorous. We sometimes have glitzier



events, but people were really touched [by the basic approach]."

In Washington, D.C., the two AIDS groups that benefited from the TeamWorks-produced AIDS rides—and received \$15.7 million in proceeds over seven years—are going in two different directions.

Whitman-Walker dropped the ride to reinvest its resources in other fund-raising, such as corporate giving, major donors, and planned gifts and bequests, says Baker. A major problem with the AIDS ride, he says, was that Whitman-Walker had to put out money in advance to pay the event's costs. "That meant tying up a lot of capital," he says. "We thought it was best for us to put those funds into new areas [of fund-raising] where we felt we needed to see growth in the future to sustain our work."

But the other beneficiary, Food and Friends, decided to launch a new cycling event, together with two other groups from Virginia and North Carolina. Executive director Craig Shniderman says Food and Friends learned a lot "about producing a successful ride" in the TeamWorks years and "felt we could do this independently."

Shniderman asserts there is no donor fatigue among gays: "At least in our experience, the gay and lesbian community has remained steadfastly devoted to funding for this epidemic even though that epidemic is predominantly impacting outside that community."

Michael Weinstein, president of the Los Angeles-based AIDS Healthcare Foundation and a longtime critic of TeamWorks, questions whether revamped AIDS rides can succeed. "There must be a more viable long-term fund-raising strategy than relying on events that each year have to be more fabulous than the last," he says. "We have to try to get people to give for the sake of giving. That's not easy, but neither are events."

Ben McConnell, a Chicago market-



AIDS activist Michael Weinstein (above) opposes AIDS ride-type events; Rebecca Isaacs (left) of the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center favors going "back to basics."

ing consultant who studied Pallotta TeamWorks, says that whatever AIDS service organizations do, they must invest in "quality marketing" to target donors, just as businesses target customers.

"What a lot of nonprofits can learn from the Pallotta model is that directing additional dollars into quality marketing will most certainly produce more revenue," McConnell says. "To raise more dollars you have to raise awareness about what contributions

will do for the cause." Donors won't be put off if AIDS groups level with them, he says.

Terje Anderson, executive director of the National Association of People With AIDS, agrees that hard times or not, AIDS groups will have to be more creative in this post-Pallotta TeamWorks era. "The organizations that are going to survive and effectively provide services," he says, "are going to be the ones that figure out ways to market themselves to new private donors and, at the same time, successfully keep their old donor base." ■

*Freiberg has also written for the New York Post and the Washington Blade.*

# Positive images

Esteemed photographer  
**Richard Renaldi**,  
HIV-positive himself  
for six years,  
presents inspiring and  
sobering portraits of  
people who have been  
living with HIV/AIDS  
for 10 years or more

I was diagnosed as HIV-positive in October 1996. My immediate reaction was to be afraid and scared. I thought that perhaps I would not live through the turn of a new century.

However difficult this was for me, I felt very fortunate to have a good support system and access to health care and the new lifesaving drugs, which my doctor reassured me was changing the course of this disease for many people.

In 1999, I began work on a project with the Columbia University School of Public Health, photographing spaces that provide housing for people with HIV and AIDS. I then decided, since I had been making so many portraits, that I would do a journalistic essay of portraits of long-term survivors. (Though I shot many different people, those pictured here are gay men and one straight woman.)

Certainly the burden of HIV is more severe when the sufferer is poor. I have noted how my own privilege has made the ordeal of HIV somewhat easier for me, and for this I feel lucky. But I also feel a sense of the unfairness of the world. I know that if I were sick with AIDS in Botswana or Thailand, the resources to help me would be far fewer.

Twenty years into this epidemic, we are still without a cure. What scares me the most, of course, is getting sick. I have not had an AIDS-related illness up to this point, but how long can that last?

After noticing some long-term side effects, I decided to stop my combina-



## David Garay

David, who lives in the New York City borough of Queens, has been HIV-positive since 1986. He used to work as a bartender and is currently on disability. David is surprised he has survived this long. He finds the regimen regarding meds pretty difficult. David's attitude for survival is to "take it one day at a time."

tion therapy. I now have been off the "cocktail" for about two years, and my numbers have remained pretty stable. This I know will not last indefinitely, and someday I will have to turn to medicine to assist me, as others have done.

Watching others fight HIV can be both heartening and frightening. I think

that when anyone HIV-positive knows of a person who has died of AIDS, we think, *That could be me*. But in these people's stories there's also hope. Having been positive for only six years, I think I have projected onto these survivors my own desire for longevity. It's that hope that keeps us all fighting.

ALL PHOTOS © RICHARD RENALDI



### Renee Johnson

Renee has been positive since 1992. She currently lives in an assisted-housing complex in New York City for people with HIV/AIDS. When the combination of her psychotropic medicine and anti-HIV meds caused a bad reaction, she was misdiagnosed for over a year as having Parkinson's disease.

### Tony Payne

Tony has been HIV-positive for close to 12 years and began taking meds a little less than a year ago.

He is very assertive about living a healthy and holistic lifestyle. What is most difficult about being HIV-positive is "a fear of living," says Tony, an art director who lives in Los Angeles. "It has made it difficult in getting and keeping long-term goals."



*Continued on page 45*

# TRIZIVIR—the only complete 3-drug HIV treatment in 1 tablet

## Details on use of TRIZIVIR

TRIZIVIR treats HIV infection alone or in combination with other HIV medicines. There is little information about its use in patients with large amounts (>100,000 copies) of virus in their blood. At this time, it's not known whether taking TRIZIVIR will slow the progress of HIV disease or help you live longer.

TRIZIVIR does not cure HIV infection/AIDS or prevent passing HIV to others.

## Important safety information

TRIZIVIR contains abacavir sulfate, which is also called ZIAGEN®. About 1 in 20 patients (5%) who take abacavir (as TRIZIVIR or ZIAGEN) will have a **serious allergic reaction** (hypersensitivity reaction) that may cause death if the drug is not stopped right away.

*You may be having this reaction if:*

- (1) you get a skin rash, or
- (2) you get 1 or more symptoms from at least 2 of the following groups:

- Fever
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal (stomach area) pain
- Extreme tiredness, achiness, generally ill feeling
- Sore throat, shortness of breath, cough

If you think you may be having a reaction, **STOP taking TRIZIVIR and call your doctor right away.**

If you stop treatment with TRIZIVIR because of this serious reaction, **NEVER take abacavir (as TRIZIVIR or ZIAGEN) again.** If you take any of these medicines again after you have had this serious reaction, **you could die within hours.**

Some patients who have stopped taking abacavir (as TRIZIVIR or ZIAGEN) and who have then started taking abacavir again have had serious or life-threatening allergic (hypersensitivity) reactions. If you must stop treatment with TRIZIVIR for reasons other than symptoms of hypersensitivity, do not begin taking it again without talking to your healthcare provider. If your healthcare provider decides that you may begin taking abacavir (as TRIZIVIR or ZIAGEN) again, you should do so only in a setting with other people to get access to a doctor, if needed.

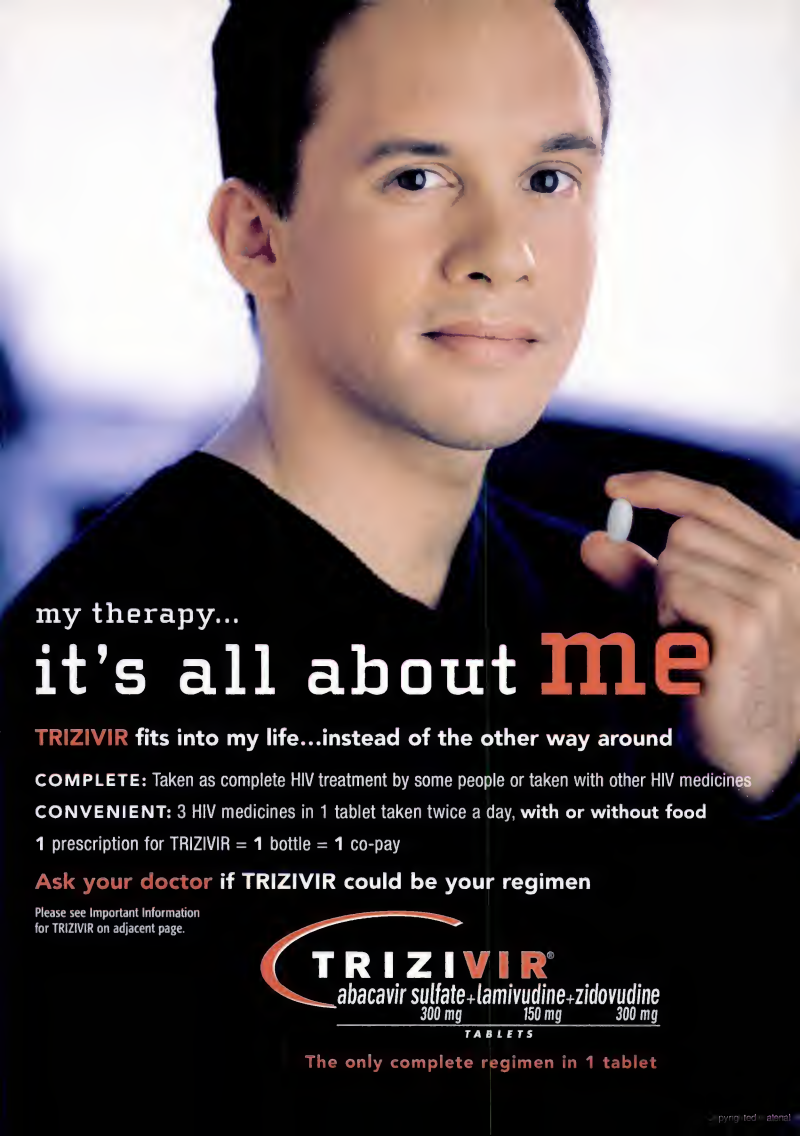
A written list of these symptoms is on the Warning Card your pharmacist gives you. Carry this Warning Card with you.

**Make sure to see your doctor regularly because serious side effects can occur, such as muscle damage and a decrease in red and/or white blood cells, especially in patients with advanced HIV disease or AIDS.**

**A buildup of lactic acid and severe liver problems, including fatal cases, have been reported with HIV drugs of this type, including the medicines in TRIZIVIR and other antiretrovirals.**

The most common side effects of taking the medicines in TRIZIVIR together are nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, weakness or tiredness, headache, dizziness, pain or tingling of the hands or feet, and muscle and joint pain.





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## MEDICATION GUIDE

### TRIZIVIR® (TRY-zih-veer) Tablets

Generic name: abacavir sulfate, lamivudine, and zidovudine

**Read the Medication Guide you get each time you fill your prescription for Trizivir. There may be new information since you filled your last prescription.**

#### What is the most important information I should know about Trizivir?

Trizivir contains abacavir, which is also called Ziagen®. About 1 in 20 patients (5%) who take abacavir (as Trizivir or Ziagen) will have a **serious allergic reaction** (hypersensitivity reaction) that **may cause death if the drug is not stopped right away**.

**You may be having this reaction if:**

- (1) you get a skin rash, or
- (2) you get 1 or more symptoms from at least 2 of the following groups:

- Fever
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal (stomach area) pain
- Extreme tiredness, achiness, generally ill feeling
- Sore throat, shortness of breath, cough

If you think you may be having a reaction, **STOP taking Trizivir and call your doctor right away**.

If you stop treatment with Trizivir because of this serious reaction, **NEVER take abacavir (as Trizivir or Ziagen) again**. If you take any of these medicines again after you have had this serious reaction, **you could die within hours**.

Some patients who have stopped taking abacavir (as Trizivir or Ziagen) and who have then started taking abacavir again have had serious or life-threatening allergic (hypersensitivity) reactions. If you must stop treatment with Trizivir for reasons other than symptoms of hypersensitivity, do not begin taking it again without talking to your health care provider. If your health care provider decides that you may begin taking abacavir (as Trizivir or Ziagen) again, you should do so only in a setting with other people to get access to a doctor if needed.

A written list of these symptoms is on the Warning Card your pharmacist gives you. Carry this Warning Card with you.

Trizivir can have other serious side effects. Be sure to read the section below entitled "What are the possible side effects of Trizivir?"

#### What is Trizivir?

Trizivir is a medicine used to treat HIV infection. Trizivir includes 3 medicines: Ziagen (abacavir), Epivir® (lamivudine or 3TC®), and Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT, or ZDV).

All 3 of these medicines are called nucleoside analogue reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs). When used together, they help lower the amount of HIV in your blood. This helps to keep your immune system as healthy as possible so it can fight infection.

Different combinations of medicines are used to treat HIV infection. You and your doctor should discuss which combination of medicines is best for you.

Trizivir does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. Trizivir has not been studied long enough to know if it will help you live longer or have fewer of the medical problems that are associated with HIV infection or AIDS. Therefore, you must see your health care provider regularly.

#### Who should not take Trizivir?

Do not take Trizivir if you have ever had a serious allergic reaction (a hypersensitivity reaction) to any of the medicines that make up Trizivir, especially Ziagen (abacavir). If you have had such a reaction, return all of your unused Trizivir to your doctor or pharmacist.

Do not take Trizivir if you weigh less than 90 pounds.

#### How should I take Trizivir?

To help make sure that your anti-HIV therapy is as effective as possible, take your Trizivir exactly as your doctor prescribes it. Do not skip any doses. The usual dosage is 1 tablet twice a day. You can take Trizivir with food or on an empty stomach.

If you miss a dose of Trizivir, take the missed dose right away. Then, take the next dose at the usual scheduled time. Do not let your Trizivir run out. The amount of

### TRIZIVIR® (abacavir sulfate, lamivudine, and zidovudine) Tablets

virus in your blood may increase if your anti-HIV drugs are stopped, even for a short time. Also, the virus in your body may become harder to treat.

#### What should I avoid while taking Trizivir?

Do not take Epivir, Retrovir, Combivir®, or Ziagen while taking Trizivir. These medicines are already in Trizivir.

You should avoid taking stavudine (Zerit®) while taking Trizivir. If your doctor prescribes doxorubicin or ribavirin, tell your doctor that you are taking Trizivir. Practice safe sex while using Trizivir. Do not use or share dirty needles. Trizivir does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Talk to your doctor if you are pregnant or if you become pregnant while taking Trizivir. Trizivir has not been studied in pregnant women. It is not known whether Trizivir will harm the unborn child.

Mothers with HIV should not breastfeed their babies because HIV is passed to the baby in breast milk. Also, Trizivir can be passed to babies in breast milk and could cause the child to have side effects.

#### What are the possible side effects of Trizivir?

**Life-threatening allergic reaction.** Trizivir contains abacavir, which is also called Ziagen. Abacavir has caused some people to have a life-threatening allergic reaction (hypersensitivity reaction) that can cause death. How to recognize a possible reaction and what to do are discussed in "What is the most important information I should know about Trizivir?" at the beginning of this Medication Guide.

**Lactic acidosis and severe liver problems.** The medicines in Trizivir can cause a serious condition called lactic acidosis and, in some cases, this condition can cause death. Nausea and tiredness that don't get better may be symptoms of lactic acidosis. Women are more likely than men to get this serious side effect.

**Blood problems.** Retrovir, one of the medicines in Trizivir, can cause serious blood cell problems. These include reduced numbers of white blood cells (neutropenia) and extremely reduced numbers of red blood cells (anemia). These blood cell problems are especially likely to happen in patients with advanced HIV disease or AIDS.

Your doctor should be checking your blood cell counts regularly while you are taking Trizivir. This is especially important if you have advanced HIV or AIDS. This is to make sure that any blood cell problems are found quickly.

**Muscle weakness.** Retrovir, one of the medicines in Trizivir, can cause muscle weakness. This can be a serious problem.

**Other side effects.** Trizivir can cause other side effects. The most common side effects of taking the medicines in Trizivir together are nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, weakness or tiredness, headache, dizziness, pain or tingling of the hands or feet, and muscle and joint pain.

This listing of side effects is not complete. Your doctor or pharmacist can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects with Trizivir.

Ask a health care professional about any concerns about Trizivir. If you want more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist for the labeling for Trizivir that was written for health care professionals.

Do not use Trizivir for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give Trizivir to other persons.



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July 2002

**Mark Vasco**

Mark, who has been HIV-positive for about 20 years, is a former Wall Street trader and still lives in New York City. He had an AIDS-related seizure on the trading floor in 1986 and has since been working as an artist. "Being HIV-positive made me feel more comfortable expressing emotions," Mark says.

**Lee Chew**

Lee was first diagnosed as HIV-positive in 1987. He is a clinical social worker in New York City and works with Senior Action in a Gay Environment. Lee became diabetic by taking anti-HIV medication. "I didn't know how brave I was," Lee says about living with AIDS. "I feel strong and am not scared about dying."



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# My personal best

Competing in his first Gay Games, renowned *Philadelphia* screenwriter **Ron Nyswaner** reports on the challenges and colors of Sydney 2002

Imagine you have trained for 22 months to run your first marathon (that's 26.2 miles). When you arrive near dawn at the start line—eager, with a knotted stomach—you learn your race has been canceled due to quickly rising summer temperatures. You congregate with chagrined fellow runners, chanting "mar-a-thon, mar-a-thon," clapping hands, and stomping the floor. A protest is mounted, evoking the spirit of an ACT UP rally. A lawyer, a nurse, and a writer prepare a manifesto. The race authorities are confronted by determined, articulate, lawsuit-threatening athletes. A compromise allows the race to proceed (with a time limit imposed to clear runners from the course before the tropical heat reaches dangerous levels). You run for three hours across sweltering pavement, fending off blackflies, until you encounter a hairy-legged man in a spangled miniskirt waving pink and white pom-poms and pointing toward the finish line.

Welcome to Gay Games VI.

I traveled to Sydney at the end of October, joining 13,000 athletes and several thousand spectators and Cultural Festival participants (drag-king comics, "positive" hip-hop artists, aboriginal sister-girl painters) for my first Gay Games. For nearly two weeks, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered visitors from around the world (mostly the prosperous parts of the world, namely North America and Europe) swarmed the streets, restaurants, hotels, and stadiums of Australia's glittering and friendly largest city, feeling welcomed



In the spotlight: Running along the Sydney waterfront in training for his first marathon, Ron Nyswaner (in red shirt) joined thousands of participants and spectators at Gay Games VI.

by the smiles of the "Sydneyiders" and the orange and blue Gay Games banners that seemed to flutter everywhere.

The massive and moving opening ceremonies, directed by 2000 Olympic Games veteran Ignatius Jones, ran like clockwork, with k.d. lang, Jimmy Somerville, and Australia High Court justice Michael Kirby lifting the spirits of the stadium's capacity crowd to near-ecstatic heights. Within a day or two, I proclaimed Sydney paradise and the Gay Games a smooth-running, community-based, inclusive celebration.

Then came the sweltering heat, reports of a looming financial boondoggle, some competitions held in sparsely attended venues, and evidence of scattered disorganization and discontent.


"It's the experience of a lifetime," said out Sydney-based actor Anthony Wong, a Games participant in tennis who will be introduced to American au-

diences in the upcoming *Matrix* sequels. "There was so much affirmation, celebration, unity—and fun—among gay people from different countries. But some aspects need to be improved."

The opening ceremonies remained the highlight of the Games for me and many others. I'll never forget marching across the field with two teammates from New York, embraced by the ear-splitting cheers of the crowd. I will always remember two sights: a rugby player marching solo under the Iraqi banner (he lives in London) and competitors from India and Pakistan dancing into the stadium holding hands.

"Think of the people who extended so much effort to be here," said James Hornel, former U.S. ambassador to Luxembourg and a tennis gold medalist in doubles. "That's what it's about."

Swimmer Manuel Bello, with the Nadadores of South Florida team, ►



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Photos by Shawn Northcutt - [www.snpphotography.com](http://www.snpphotography.com)



Barefoot in the park: k.d. lang wows the crowd  
at the opening ceremonies.

disagreed. "I'm here for the sport," he  
said. "Everything else is extra."

And make no mistake: Gay Games VI  
was about sports, offering 33 events in  
36 venues and tough competition for  
high-caliber athletes. The divers, for ex-  
ample, were spectacular, exhibiting  
grace and skill worthy of any interna-  
tional competition. I met marathoners  
who planned to finish in an impressive  
three hours (or less). And several Gay  
Games swimming records were set dur-  
ing the first two days of competition.

But I used the goal of the Games to  
become an athlete, specifically a runner  
of marathons. I had been trotting half-  
heartedly on a treadmill at my gym  
when two friends encouraged me to join  
them at the Sydney Games. It was a diffi-  
cult time—my mother had entered a  
nursing home in the final stages of





Shall we dance: A lesbian couple from Sydney (top) twirl in the ballroom dancing competition; drag queens at the opening ceremonies prove that on every continent gays and big wigs go together.

Alzheimer's, and my father was losing his decade-long battle with heart disease. I had heard that long-distance running was a reliable method of venting frustration and relieving stress. I registered for the Gay Games' marathon and bought a serious pair of running shoes.

I abandoned the treadmill and began jogging over mountain roads near my home in upstate New York. I took to running, clocking respectable times in 10K's and half marathons. Sports—in my childhood, the dividing line between social glory and ostracism—belonged to me; I reclaimed it in my uncloseted adulthood. And to prove it, I planned to run my first full marathon at the Gay Games.

"That was Tom Waddell's ideal," explained Ambassador Hornell, referring to the founder of the Games, who envisioned an inclusive athletic event in

which novice competitors mixed with elite athletes. "He saw a milieu in which everyone fit and shared a sense of belonging and was inspired toward a personal best."

A personal best for the Swinging Riots—the women's fast-pitch softball team from Malaysia—was defined by the center fielder: "We're going to try and not get massacred." They were true novices when they began playing: "We didn't know which end of the bat to use."

Malaysia's underground gay and lesbian community supported the team's journey to Sydney with fund-raisers, but players told families and coworkers they were attending a "happy international competition." Some players worried about marching into the stadium under the Malaysian banner. "Homosexuality is illegal back home," the outspoken fielder

explained. But she worried more about her competitors, whom she spotted on the line for accreditation. "Some of them are big," she joked, "like barns on legs."

Montreal will host the Games in 2006, and Lowell Selvin, president and CEO of PlanetOut Partners (which owns Gay.com, the largest cash sponsor of the Sydney Games), hopes to see some changes in the next four years: "There needs to be an application of fundamental business practices, like integration of ticketing and registration and improved focus on sponsorship development so the Games can be better funded."

Sydney Gay Games cochair Peter Bailey thinks the ideal of unlimited inclusion must be examined: "The logistics of running an event of this magnitude with volunteers is a nightmare. It's bigger than the Olympics. We have to ask ourselves, for future Games, can we set some maximums? Should we close events at a certain number [of participants]?"

In the end, I did not finish my marathon. The race authorities pulled many of us off the course at the 20-mile marker as the temperature soared to record levels. One runner was carted away by ambulance. I left Sydney Olympic Park exhausted, dehydrated, and downhearted, thinking of the hours I'd spent training and the miles I'd covered—at home in Woodstock, in New York City, Los Angeles, even Hanoi and the coal mining region of southwestern Pennsylvania, where I visited my mother in her nursing home and tended my father as he died.

I returned to my hotel room and slumped into bed with aching legs, feeling that my trip and the months of training had been wasted.

But I roused myself and attended the open-air farewell party at Sydney's Fox Studios, holding hands with the new man in my life, walking among lesbian power lifters, transgendered volleyball players, bisexual chess players, and at least one straight athlete (with the water polo team from Los Angeles, validating the Games' mission of inclusion). My feelings of defeat faded with my sunburn; I was safe, enlivened, and free.

See you in Montreal in 2006. ■

*Nyswaner's latest project is Soldier's Girl, a Showtime original film about the murder of Pfc. Barry Winchell.*





PERSON OF THE YEAR

# THE REAL ROSIE

365 days of amazing challenges and feisty decisions turned America's sweetheart into the fighter she's always been—and *The Advocate's* leading lady for 2002

By Judy Wieder

Rosie O'Donnell photographed by  
Nigel Parry/CPI for *The Advocate*

Grooming by Helene McCauley for Art Mix, the Agency;  
wardrobe styling by Donna Richards

First of all, there are not two Rosies. She was never the "Queen of Nice," and she's not the "Queen of Mean." That's just our media selling tickets to its own headlines. Sure, she's a complicated bunny, but there's still only one Rosie, and one's enough! Passionate, boisterous, creative, sad, fun, generous, and genuine, she is *The Advocate's* Person of the Year for many reasons—not the least of which is that she survived the year at all!

An authentic Rosie Hood for the underdog, this woman had it all when 2002 began—except what she treasured the most: ►

Clockwise from left:  
Chelsea, Rosie, Parker, and Blake.  
The newest family member,  
Vivienne Rose, born November 29,  
was not ready to gather round  
Rosie for her picture.



the ongoing connection to those who have nothing. And that included the Rosie she still remembers: the isolated child who grew up in Commack, Long Island, whose cherished mother died when she was 10 and whose father was never emotionally hers. The kid who ran all the way to Broadway to find her feelings but lost her soul on the wild, empty fame ride.

Exaggeration? A little, but not much. For the rich and famous Rosie, the gap had grown too wide. She missed herself. So starting with her book, *Find Me*, she decided to put herself back together in an open, honest way.

When Rosie came out this year, she became the most famous gay person in the world. For years her daily daytime TV show made her a regular guest in millions of homes. Her magazine, *Rosie*, with her name and face all over it, followed suit. Nobody of her stature had ever come out before, and I, for one, can understand her looking at it from all angles before leaping off the cliff. Fortunately, she finally collided with an offer she couldn't refuse: the chance to be on Diane Sawyer's TV special and discuss what it was like to be a gay parent, as did Steve Lofton and Roger Croteau, the gay couple suing Florida to overturn its ban on gay adoption. Not only is Rosie gay and a huge child advocate, she lost her own bid to adopt the daughter she'd fostered in Florida because of this law.

"I occasionally tell Bert [the son Lofton and Croteau are fighting to keep] that he outed Rosie," Roger Croteau jokes. "But really, she did the perfect thing for the issues and the children on that show. Prior to that the media was clueless and uninterested; now they cannot get enough."

Asked about the biggest impact Rosie's had on their personal lives, Steve Lofton refers to Rosie's quiet generosity: "When Rosie found out we didn't have a television, she sent the kids a TV and cable. Now they can choose between a TV movie and a cable movie once a week."

Unfortunately, the good vibes of Rosie's coming-out took a quick turn south when Gruner + Jahr USA, the

publishers of *Rosie*, allegedly thought their star was looking too much like (gasp!) an activist. They worried whether she was still the right figurehead for this onetime *McCall's* readership. In the end, they wanted her name but not her. Rosie saw things differently. This was *her* name. They got both, or neither. That's when the real circus started.

"It wasn't the gay thing," Rosie says, "it was the magazine stuff. That's when the tabloids went nuts. That's when they started in about my hair and me being a man and so tough and scary."

Tough and scary? Not really. You can tell a lot by being in someone's home. Rosie's is warm and easy. Her girlfriend and children adore her, and she brightens whenever they're around. And when they're not, she goes looking for them. After viewing Rosie's unexpectedly cathartic art pieces in her studio, I sat down with Kelli Carpenter, Rosie's partner of five years, and discussed why she thought Rosie should be *The Advocate's* Person of the Year.

"So much! Her ability to effect change and open people's minds—not just in the big world but in my life," Kelli says. "She was able to change my parents' perspective on being gay and how gay relationships work, that it didn't mean you have to be alone all your life. That was their biggest fear. But there she was."

And there she still is. Vaulting across the family room, trying to get her youngest son, Blake, to sing "It's the Hard-Knock Life" for us—both of them laughing too hard to sing anything.

The following interview took place in Rosie's Manhattan offices and in her home outside New York.

#### So how was your year, Rosie?

Oh, boy, it's been very eventful, I can say that. My whole life and career—I was focused on just that, my career. And the first break in that came when I adopted my son [Parker], and the second break in that career focus came when I met Kelli, and I knew that this was, as I told Parker, the puzzle piece that matched my heart.

#### Why?

Kelli is an unbelievable person. She was just the piece that fit. She's part of the real grace that comes from being able to live the truth. It's too hard to describe.

#### How did you two first meet?

My brother Danny [see page 66], who's gay, met her at—[calling out to Kelli in the kitchen] what event was that, honey? It was some gay function in New York, and he met Kelli because they were at the same table. She had just moved from Chicago and just broken up with someone. She asked him, did he know anybody who was single.

*Kelli [moving into the conversation from the kitchen]:* I asked him to introduce me to a nice attorney.

*Rosie [rolls her eyes]:* Right. And then he called me and said, "I met the perfect girl for you." And I thought, *Naw, I'm never going to meet anyone!* I never really was a dater, you know?

*Kelli:* Then there was another event where you—

*Rosie:* No, no—I know what it was! I buy tables to a lot of charity events, but then I don't go. I send other people instead. I'd rather stay home at night. My brother Danny was going, and he told me Kelli was going, so I told him and everybody else going to "check her out!"

*Kelli [laughing]:* I had no idea this was going on.

*Rosie:* So they all came back giving me the [makes "OK" clicking sounds]. But it was four months before we had a date.

#### So people were reporting to you, but you still hadn't seen or spoken to her?

*Rosie:* Right. Then she called my brother and asked for tickets to the show.

*Kelli:* My parents were in town.

*Rosie:* So I was like, "Red alert! Kelli Carpenter's coming to the show!"

#### You were really nervous?

*Rosie:* Well, I wasn't really nervous, but I looked out there during the show and saw her and thought, *Oh, my God, she's so preppy! A-a-ahhh, preppy, this is going to be impossible.* ►



PERSON OF THE YEAR

ROSIE O'DONNELL



## PERSON OF THE YEAR



"She's the puzzle piece that fit my heart," Rosie says about Kelli, who just gave birth to a daughter.

So after the show I made my assistant go tell her that if she wanted to have a picture taken with Rosie or meet her, she could. So Kelli was like, "Umm...I don't know." But her mother said [*yelling in a Southern accent*], "I'd love to meet her!" [*Laughs*] Little did I know what I was getting into: Goner Pyle as an in-law!

**Kelli:** We just found that picture the other day.

**Rosie:** Yeah, there we all are, posing before Kelli and I had ever even talked. Then she got all flirty with me, saying, "O-o-oh, you burned your hand. Does it hurt?"

**Wait a minute! More hand karma?**

**Rosie:** Yes, that's true. It started that way, honey. Right up to this [*holds up hand, wrapped after still another surgery*].

**Kelli:** Yeah, but she had four months of prep while I didn't even know what was going on.

**Rosie:** True [*laughs*]. We were, like, to-

tally setting it up while I was checking her out. [*Kelli returns to the kitchen*]

**Did getting together with Kelli push you toward coming out?**

There were many people who said to me, "Famous or not, why don't you come out?" and I always said, "I'm out enough," because I never pretended to have a boyfriend. My crush on Tom Cruise is real—I never said I wanted to have sex with him. It stunned me when, after the Diane Sawyer interview, they did a focus group and it said 60% of people didn't know, but I don't believe that. I believe they knew.

**I disagree. As long as you didn't say it, they didn't have to know.**  
I guess.

**I remember having these discussions with Lily Tomlin. She didn't think she had to come out. She thought she was out. Well, maybe in her world—**

It's not just my world. It was with everyone: interns on my show. I felt that I never compromised my integrity or my place in the gay community, ever.

**How did you see your place in the community before you came out?**

What I think the gay community needs to realize is that all the members are in our dugout. Some are playing on the field, but everybody's in uniform. And the person who's pitching is not of more value than the person in the dugout waiting for his turn to bat. I waited until I knew it was my turn to bat. And these men, [Steve] Lofton and [Roger] Croteau—they were a gift from God: what they have lived and the injustice of this law. I heard in my head, *This is the time*.

**Well, it would still have been a big deal if it had just been about you.**

But I didn't want it to be about me. Because it's not about me. In the same way, when they try to give me the Mother of the Year award, I don't want to take it. I'm a multimillionaire. I have assistants and help. The woman who's trying to put sneakers on her three kids and working three jobs deserves Mother of the Year. Not me.

**But certainly, coming out has changed you.**

I will say this: Since doing it, I'm shocked at the change: Everyone had told me this [*would happen*!—from my brother to Ellen [DeGeneres]]. Everybody who knows me knows that the main focus of my life is the rights of kids. The biggest thing I ever had to get over in my life was my childhood—not my sexuality. I mean, the things that the gay community has harped on me about, I find odd.

**Like?**

When Kathy Kinney came on my show and outed Richard Simmons, I didn't try to "in" Richard Simmons. The gay community accused me of in-ing Richard Simmons, like I was trying to make people think that he was straight. I will tell you this: If Richard Simmons ever wants to discuss his private life with me on national TV, he's welcome to do so. It is not ►

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**SUSTIVA does not cure HIV or prevent passing HIV to others.**

## Safety Information

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams. These feelings tend to go away after taking the medication for a few weeks. Mild to moderate rash is another common side effect. A small number of patients have reported severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. There have been a few reports of suicide but SUSTIVA has not been established as the cause. SUSTIVA should not be taken with Hismanal® (astemizole), Propulsid® (cisapride), Versed® (midazolam), Halcion® (triazolam) or ergot derivatives. Tell your doctor about any medications or herbal products (particularly St. John's wort) that you are taking. Women should not become pregnant or breast-feed while taking SUSTIVA.

Please see important information about SUSTIVA on next page.

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## PATIENT INFORMATION

# SUSTIVA® (sus-TEE-vah)

## [efavirenz (eh-FAH-vih-rehnz)] capsules and tablets

**ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with SUSTIVA.**

Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA."

Read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. This leaflet provides a summary about SUSTIVA and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information is not meant to take the place of talking with your doctor.

### What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used in combination with other medicines to help treat infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of anti-HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI). SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (viral load). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells, a type of immune cell in blood. SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

SUSTIVA does not cure HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections and complications. Therefore, it is very important that you stay under the care of your doctor.

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Therefore, continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

### What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

**Serious psychiatric problems.** A small number of patients experience severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior while taking SUSTIVA. Some patients have thoughts of suicide and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients who have had mental illness. Contact your doctor right away if you think you are having these psychiatric symptoms, so your doctor can decide if you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

**Common side effects.** Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with SUSTIVA. These side effects may be reduced if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime on an empty stomach. They also tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these common side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have serious psychiatric problems, such as severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Tell your doctor right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. It is possible that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs.

If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.

**Rash is common.** Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor right away. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea.

**Changes in body fat.** Changes in body fat develop in some patients taking anti-HIV medicine. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), in the breasts, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The short and long-term health effects of these fat changes are not known.

Tell your doctor or healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

Contact your doctor before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects or for any other reason.

This is not a complete list of side effects possible with SUSTIVA. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for a more complete list of side effects of SUSTIVA and all the medicines you will take.

### How should I take SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

#### General Information

- You should take SUSTIVA on an empty stomach, preferably at bedtime.
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water.
- Taking SUSTIVA with food increases the amount of medicine in your body, which may increase the frequency of side effects.
- Taking SUSTIVA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.
- SUSTIVA must be taken in combination with other anti-HIV medicines. If you take only SUSTIVA, the medicine may stop working.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away, unless it is almost time for your next dose. Do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- If you believe you took more than the prescribed amount of SUSTIVA, contact your local Poison Control Center or emergency room right away.
- Tell your doctor if you start any new medicine or change how you take old ones. Your doses may need adjustment.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.
- Your doctor may want to do blood tests to check for certain side effects while you take SUSTIVA.

#### Capsules

The dose of SUSTIVA capsules for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).

#### Tablets

The dose of SUSTIVA tablets for adults is 600 mg (one tablet) once a day by mouth.

### Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

### Who should not take SUSTIVA?

**Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic** to the active ingredient, efavirenz, or to any of the inactive ingredients. Your doctor and pharmacist have a list of the inactive ingredients.

### What should I avoid while taking SUSTIVA?

- **Women taking SUSTIVA should not become pregnant.** Serious birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. Tell your doctor right away if you are pregnant. Also talk with your doctor if you want to become pregnant.
- Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control such as pills, injections, or implants, because SUSTIVA may make these contraceptives ineffective. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control.
- **Do not breast-feed if you are taking SUSTIVA.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that mothers with HIV not breast-feed because they can pass the HIV through their milk to the baby. Also, SUSTIVA may pass through breast milk and cause serious harm to the baby. Talk with your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You may need to stop breast-feeding or use a different medicine.
- Taking SUSTIVA with alcohol or other medicines causing similar side effects as SUSTIVA, such as drowsiness, may increase those side effects.
- Do not take any other medicines without checking with your doctor. These medicines include prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal products, especially St. John's wort.

### Before using SUSTIVA, tell your doctor if you

- have problems with your liver, or have hepatitis. Your doctor may want to do tests to check your liver while you take SUSTIVA.
- have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.

### What important information should I know about taking other medicines with SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines, including ones for HIV, and cause serious side effects. Your doctor may change your other medicines or change their doses. Other medicines, including herbal products, may affect SUSTIVA. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your prescription and non-prescription medicines as well as any herbal remedies that you are taking when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

Taking SUSTIVA with St. John's wort (*hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease SUSTIVA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to SUSTIVA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV drugs.

### MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of the medicines while taking SUSTIVA<sup>®</sup>:

- Hismanal<sup>®</sup> (astemizole)
- Propulsid<sup>®</sup> (cisapride)
- Versed<sup>®</sup> (midazolam)
- Halcion<sup>®</sup> (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine<sup>®</sup> and Cafergot<sup>®</sup>)
- The following medicines may need to be replaced with another medicine when taken with SUSTIVA<sup>®</sup>:
- Fortovase<sup>®</sup>, Invirase<sup>®</sup> (saquinavir)
- Bixatrip<sup>®</sup> (clarithromycin)

The following medicines may need to have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA<sup>®</sup>:

- Crixivan<sup>®</sup> (indinavir)
- Mycobutin<sup>®</sup> (rifabutin)
- Methadone

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take SUSTIVA. Be sure to tell your doctor about all medicines that you take.

### General advice about SUSTIVA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use SUSTIVA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give SUSTIVA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

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**"What I have found as a result of the letting go—not just of the show but the magazine and the coming-out—are rewards that I can't even begin to explain."**

anyone else's right to do that before he decides it's time. That's the reason I said to Kathy Kinney, "We'll be right back with a commercial." I'm simply saying that *that* right belongs to him. [*Loudly*] And no matter what community you feel he's a part of or what he represents to you, it is not as relevant as his own truth.

**Don't get mad at me! *The Advocate* doesn't out people.**

Well, that's how I always talk—this is why people think I'm maniacal. This is how I talk. I should've been a lawyer.

**[*Laughing*] It's not too late. Look, if someone isn't ready—**

But I also think it's not fair to judge the person as not ready when they may be living a life that is just as out as yours.

**Wait—I'm talking about being ready to climb up on the cover of *The Advocate* and say, "Here's my life."**

Correct. Got it, got it. Yeah. Right.

**What's important is that you're out and that you did it in a way that is going to help change the world.**

**That's why you're the Person of the Year for *The Advocate*.**

I am? I didn't know. They didn't tell me. That's a huge honor, and I think it's wonderful.

**And we don't give this honor to people who don't deserve it.**

[*Quietly*] No, I don't think that of you.

**Why did you do a talk show?**

Well, here's what happened. Before my talk show, I was a comedian. When you're a comedian, you have free rein to say anything you want. I had a blank canvas, and I painted all the time, all over the country, in Vegas and everywhere. I loved it.

**I know you were rowdier back then.**

Then I got this job that required one thing: It was a specific kind of canvas. It was afternoon TV. It was Merv Griffin or Mike Douglas. It was noncontroversial. It was happy, fun, light, mothers-at-home, and "Relate to them, Rosie, in the best way that you can." To me, it didn't mean *hiding* my sexuality, but it also did not mean flaunting my sexuality. I never once said, "Well, my boyfriend and I went last night to the premiere." I would sit at the

Emmys next to Kelli. I just lived as though everyone knew it.

In addition to Lofton and Croteau, I've always felt that something very personal kicked in and made you say, "I can't do this anymore. I want out. It's my turn at bat."

I turned 40. I outlived my mother.

**Ah, OK...**

My mother died at 39. At 39, I was in the hospital with a staph infection. They were going to amputate my finger or my wrist. It's the middle finger; I'm the middle of five children. I don't think it's by accident. And I felt that God was saying to me, *I gave you what you thought you wanted, and I've shown you what you need. Where will you go?* Toward what I need, or toward what I think I wanted?

**And?**

Well, what I thought I wanted was salvation for free, because Barbra Streisand made me feel emotional and alive, and Bette Midler too. As a young person I would listen to them and the emotions sung in *Pippin* and the feelings from *West Side Story*, and that was the only outlet I had to express all the stuff inside me. And I thought that by becoming like them I would feel what they made me feel as a child, constantly.

**But it didn't work, did it?**

No, that was a misunderstanding on my part. It was a 20-year journey. It took a life-threatening injury; it took Kelli sleeping on the floor in ICU. The fame took a toll on my friends and family, on those relationships that are most valuable and most important. Finally I had a shift in perspective, and I'm grateful for that. But when you let go of something, you make space for something else to be there. And what I have found I've been given as a result of the letting go—not just of the show but the magazine and the coming-out—are rewards that I can't even begin to explain.

**Try.**

When I went to opening night at *Hairspray* and I heard those words ►

**"The gay community  
needs to stop  
pointing fingers  
at their brothers  
and sisters, saying,  
'Not gay enough.'"**



and I saw those performances, I was sobbing like I couldn't believe. Because everything came together for me at once.

**Because you're out? More vulnerable? Why were you sobbing?**

It had nothing to do with coming out. The sobbing had to do with the fact that this was the origin of my artistic essence: musical theater. It was the reason I became a performer. It was always *Oklahoma!* and *West Side Story* and every musical my mother loved that we would sit and watch on TV together. It was musicals that made me become a performer, and when I saw Barbra onstage, I thought to myself, *Well, I love her, and look what she's giving me! But I don't know where you go to do that.* Hollywood was a vague and elusive concept. When I came to see *Clams on the Half Shell* in 1974, I stood at the stage door and watched the woman I had just seen perform miracles [Bette Midler] walk out of the door sweating with a towel on her head, stopping to sign my autograph—I was 11 years old. I knew there was a place to go where I could do what I felt inside of me. And that was Broadway.

**So you came full circle?**

Yes, to be there that night, to have let go of everything, to have it be my first public appearance after my press conference with the magazine, to have that be the first thing that I did. I felt that, again, nothing happens by chance.

**So many changes! You were the "Queen of Nice," and now you've become—**

The devil incarnate. Right, but here's the thing: If you agree to being sanctified, you need to agree to be vilified.

**But did you agree to being this television goody-goody?**

I never thought I was the "Queen of Nice." In fact, when that came out I remember saying "You know what? Next year it's gonna be the 'Queen of Lice' and then the 'Queen of Fried Rice.'" But at the time that I came on the air, the number 1 show was *Jerry Springer*.

People were beating each other up; guests were killing each other. Compared to that, I was the "Queen of Nice." But in actuality, watch my HBO special. My art form is not based in kindness; it's based in rage.

**I'm glad to hear this from you. I always got that from your comedy.** But you have to find a way to translate that in your art, as every artist does, so that the message is heard.

**What about AIDS activism?**

Now I understand the rage in ACT UP; I understand it was righteous anger. When your hand is forced, you don't have a choice. But I don't think that going into St. Patrick's Cathedral—those kinds of overt acts of hostility—are going to be productive for anyone.

**Was it frustrating for you when certain huge incidents happened to the gay community, like Matthew Shepard or Brandon Teena being murdered, and you couldn't join the protests?**

Well, I know all of those stories because of your magazine. But I'll tell you why I didn't feel the need to attend the vigils for Matthew Shepard—his death was horrific; it is the worst in us, but that doesn't mean gay people should only stand up when it's a gay person murdered. It also means when a man is dragged to death because he's black in Texas—it means all injustices.

**Of course, but the problem with hate-crime laws is that while they cover James Byrd's atrocious death, most states refuse to add gays to their list of those protected by law from hate crimes.**

Oh, true, I agree.

**Did people ask you to come to any of the vigils or marches?**

When Ellen [DeGeneres] called me and said, did I want to go to the vigil—and I love Ellen, and I've known her many, many, many years—I said no. And she said, "Why?" and I said, "Because you didn't call me to go to James Byrd's. And if you had called me to go to James Byrd's, I might've

gone with you to Matthew Shepard's." That's my philosophy.

**Judy Shepard told me she had spoken to you about Matthew early on.**

I was in an elevator with Judy Shepard right before I hosted the Grammys four years ago. I got on an elevator with her, and she looked familiar, and I said, "Are you Ryan White's mother?"

**Close...**

She was in my Filofax somewhere. And she said, "No, I'm Matthew Shepard's mother." And I was like [gasps], "Could you come with me to my room? I would love to talk to you." And she said yes, and I talked to her and I told her about myself being gay and what a horrible thing had happened to her son and how I felt the presence of God in her husband's speech. That speech changed the world because he came from compassion and love. He said that his son would not want the boys to die. And there are moments like when I heard his speech on the radio, where I have to pull off the road because I am crying too much to drive the car. And what I say in those moments is "Thank you, God." We need this compassion and godliness in each other.

**Don't people treat you with compassion?**

The gay community needs to stop pointing fingers at their brothers and sisters and saying "Not gay enough." It's not as though gay people didn't know I was gay; it was the people in Iowa.

**Yes, but the people in Iowa need to know.**

But look, I'm sitting on a plane and the flight attendant goes, "Hi, Rosie—oh, my God, my partner's name is Frank, and I just love you, love your show." I'm sitting next to Kelli, and we both wear matching rings—it's pretty obvious to everyone who's gay.

**Yes, of course a gay flight attendant would know, Rosie.**

OK, OK. ►

**Everything has changed for you now, Rosie.**

And it's like being on the space shuttle. I was in intense fame for six years. When astronauts come down from being in space, they have to go to a decompression chamber. They need to have therapy and hear someone say "I know you keep saying, 'Oh, my God, I walked on the moon.' But you're back on Earth now—shift!" They have professionals to help them do that.

**Don't you?**

There's no one to help you do that when you let go of fame the way I did. Also, society likes to think what I thought, which is, *It's better over there*. And when somebody "over there" says "You know what? It isn't, and I'm coming back to where you are," it changes everyone's belief system. It forces them to look again at their own values in life.

**Just like you had to?**

Yes, and that's a gift. It's a gift that I got by being sick enough and trusting

enough and having the most amazing, heart-opening experience with the children in my life. These kids came in and broke the cement around my heart and made a space for Kelli to enter. And what has grown as a result is an unbelievably beautiful garden. And the stuff that I won't do anymore is pretend.

**You were pretending before?**

It's part of why the magazine situation came apart. I finally said no. I can't pretend. I didn't [tell G+J I would] want it to be a militant magazine—I just wanted it to be me. If I tell Christopher Reeve "You're on the cover," he should end up on the cover. He shouldn't get cut down to a book excerpt. His life shouldn't get reduced to the headline "My Adventures in Scientology" because Scientology will sell. That is not all right with me.

**I can't believe this happened to you too. I had to cancel an *Advocate* cover with Christopher Reeve when he directed *In the Gloaming*.**

**Someone above me thought our readers would think we were equating homosexuality with disabilities.**

*A-a-ahhh!* So you know what I'm saying! It was just ridiculous. I was on a roller-coaster ride and I kept thinking, *It's gonna get real soon*. And when I got off the ride, I said to the ticket guy, "Oh, my God, you're not gonna believe what just happened to me." And he said, "Yeah, I know, everybody says that when they get off."

**So it's a big relief after being bound up...**

The best part about coming out was the weekend after. I went to the mall, and people nodded at me, they winked at me and gave me the thumbs-up, but they did not come over to me when I was with my children. That is a profound change. It was as if by saying "I am gay too—I am what you believe and also this," it forced them to see me as a real, full person; three-dimensional. When they

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see me with Kelli, they know: "Wow, that is who she has chosen. She loves that person." When they see me with my children, they say, "There's a mother with her children," and that moment is more real than the image of Rosie. And it took me a long time to find it out.

**The gay community—whatever that is—has been...?**

Right—on the whole, aside from those few I call the gay Nazis—has been unbelievably supportive of me.

**I think I remember that when Ellen DeGeneres came out, you were critical of the circus that went on around her [and Anne Heche].**

Well, I knew she was gonna come out because she had told me for a long time. She came on my show, and we did the "Lebanese thing"; I wanted to go there because I wanted people who were smart enough to get it to hear what I was saying: I'm one of you. That's why I did that.

**Yes, and the people who knew about both of you, knew. And those watching the show who didn't know, still didn't know.**

I've been friends with Ellen for 15 years. I like her a lot. I've known Ellen through many partners, and she has known me through many partners. When you think you find the person for your whole life and you're gonna announce it to the world, you'd better be sure.

**Well, that was a pretty devastating event for her.**

For everyone. For everyone.

**And the fact that Melissa and Julie blew up at the same time was unbelievable.**

Right.

**But again, now that this media circus has happened to you, do you feel more understanding—**

Empathy, yes. But I don't think the same thing happened to me that hap-

pened to Ellen. I made a decision to speak up against an unjust law in Florida because I was victimized by that law. Now, all of this stuff that's happened to *Rosie* the magazine, that's something else. They decided it was no longer gonna have my personality—it was gonna have someone else's. All the huge media came over that. I don't think it's because of the gay thing.

**How can you separate any of it?**

Let me tell you why: We didn't lose one corporate sponsor when I came out on my TV show. We didn't lose one page of advertising in the magazine. It was only after the magazine, people started saying, "She's crazy—look at her, she's changed."

**Have you changed?**

I had a meeting with Warner Bros. eight years ago, at the age of 32, before starting the show, and said, "Before you invest money in the show, I want you to know I'm gay, and I want you to be OK with the fact that I'm gay. Because ►



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# PERSON OF THE YEAR

what would be really bad for me would be if the show is successful and I become tabloid fodder like Oprah, and they put that I'm gay on a tabloid cover and you are horrified—then I don't wanna take this job. So I want to be up-front in the beginning," I said the same thing at G+J. "You realize I am doing the ACLU lawsuit with the Loftons? You realize I am a lesbian and letting go of my show? You realize I want social issues? You realize I am not about beauty and facade? Do you realize this?" "Yes, we realize this."

## When did you say this?

At the very beginning. Before we signed the contract. That's why I said to them, "Do you realize that if you do this, I will quit the magazine? It will cost you millions of dollars and will drag your name through the mud. You cannot have my name—I worked 20 years to find it. You do not get to say what it means."

## Your name is all you've got.

Yeah! So I don't believe what happened to Ellen is what happened to me. I think if I went to the White House like she did, a press dinner at the middle of this blitz with my arm around Kelli, maybe. I think if I had met Kelli three weeks before and then had a big announcement that we'd be together for our whole life, maybe.

## Well, she was madly in love.

Look, Judy, I was sure when I made this announcement about my family. I was sure this was my family forever. Maybe Ellen was sure of that too, but it felt to me a little haphazard to stand up for such a big issue so soon... I mean, you better be sure. I know that Ellen thought she was sure, and I know that Ellen is a good person.

## You are a much bigger tabloid fave than Ellen's ever been.

I have a great tabloid story; I haven't told it anywhere else. I take my son to the mall; bad timing for me, tabloid-wise—the kid can now read. We're at Target, we're getting stuff, and Parker says, "Mommy, you're 300 'libs.'" I go, "Where do you see that?" "Right there—you're 300 'libs.'" I go, "Oh, honey, that means 'pounds.' Here's the

thing—these magazines by the cash register, they've got a little bit of truth and a lot of lies. Let me explain it to you: Mommy is 200 'libs.' Some people think women should only be 100 'libs' and men should be 200 'libs' and nobody should be 300 'libs.'"

The next week we go back: "Mommy, are you gonna become a man?" "No. Mommy got a haircut, and some people think that people with short hair look like boys and people with long hair look like girls. I don't want to be a boy; I never wanted to be a boy. And there are some people who are born feeling that they were born in the wrong body and they want to change their body."

then see their falls—look what's happening to Martha Stewart; it's a sin.

## You're supportive of her.

It has nothing to do with anything other than the fact that she's a woman. And the fact that other women are standing in line to take her down is horribly offensive to me.

## With all the recent corporate scandals involving men—

Not only do men do it, they screw their employees out of their life savings. It's a sin what they're doing to Martha. If she is guilty of anything, it's answering a phone call from her bro-



## Watch it! Children can read

When Rosie's oldest son, Parker, saw the headlines on the *Enquirer* (left), he asked if they were true. Rosie made the paper retract it all (above).

The next week he says, "Mommy, is our family breaking up?" I say, "No. That one, Parker, is a pure lie, and Mommy's going to call the man who wrote it and give him one chance to fix it and tell everyone the truth about our family." So on the cover of the *Enquirer*, there was a photo that I provided of me and Kelli and a story that says they lied and they made up the whole thing.

## The psychology of the tabloids fascinates me. I guess it's a window into our society.

I think America or society, myself included, likes to build people up and

ker. You know what the difference was between the day before that phone call and the day after? \$42,000. [Yelling] She is worth *billions*.

## Why don't you tell me how you really feel, Rosie.

[Laughing] I have been muzzled for three months from the press. This is very freeing.

## What is all this paint on your clothes?

All of my clothes are covered with paint. You know why? For three months they've been telling me, "Don't talk to anyone." For three months the

only outlet I have had artistically has been canvases. My studio has probably 3,000 canvases.

#### **You paint?**

Yes. Because Kelli's been smart, saying to me, "Get in your craft room, honey." She won't let me read one piece of press. They rip up newspapers and magazines so I don't see the articles. Kelli said that if I read them, I would go ballistic. I would have a press conference that day and scream and yell.

#### **Which you are trying not to do?**

Again, that anger is not the way to go.

**Kelli just gave birth to a girl, Vivienne Rose, on November 29. We've done a lot of articles with lesbian mothers and their partners. What was it like for you *not* to be pregnant?**

I never wanted physically to have a baby. I don't know why; I never did. Any baby you hand me today will be mine in three minutes. I feel totally like Vivienne Rose is my baby when I feel her and I talk to her. I'll tell you this: Kelly has made me promise this will be our last child.

#### **Is that what you want too?**

If it was up to me, I would have 10. I love it. I love the chaos of it; I love the insanity of finding a sneaker under the bed; I love them arguing over who's gonna get the prize out of a cereal box. And I never in my life—when I had my son and then my daughter—thought I would ever give up any part of that total ownership of their lives to anyone else. I was doing this by myself—regardless of who I was dating or sleeping with.

#### **This was Parker and Chelsea?**

Yes. I was like, *Your name's on nothing, whoever you are—no way, this is just me! This is my baby.* Well, when I fell in love with her, I was like, *Oh, my God, I cannot believe I am about to do this.* We adopted a baby boy, Blake, together, and when she said she wanted to have a baby, I said, "Excellent." Kelli's an amazing parent; I totally co-parent with her; I could not parent without her. She provides stability in a way that I don't.

#### **Like how?**

Parker gets his first-grade homework: "There's a cow, a dog, a fish, and a chicken. Their names are Binky, Buddy, Sam, and Sue. The chicken likes Binky; Sue is the bunny"—what are the other two names? Now, I literally sat there with him for 20 minutes. And my brain—I never got loaded with that software—blanked, and I finally had to say, "OK, Parker, you're gonna have to wait until Kelli Mommy comes home, because I cannot solve this, even though it's a problem for 7-year-olds. Mommy Kelli's brain can do this in five seconds." But when he lost his first tooth, I helped him make a Lego tooth fairy bridge that the tooth fairy could climb up. I can do that.

#### **Do you anticipate a difference in your family dynamic with your new baby?**

I do ask Kelli, "Do you think you are gonna feel different because you gave birth to this baby?" Kelli says she doesn't think so, but we'll know when it happens.

#### **That's honest.**

All I know is that children are a blessing, always. And our job is to make them walk through life "with the grace of having once been cherished." That's a line I stole from Anne Rice. I realized, *that is what we need to do to our children—cherish them.* Children, to me, are the biggest lesson and gift you can get about yourself.

#### **What do you think your biggest mistake has been?**

Not telling the people I love the most that I love them.

#### **Why didn't you?**

Because I didn't grow up in a family that did. And my children and the people that I cherish the most are the ones I have to work hardest at expressing it to. You have to be carefully taught. My children have been taught. And that is my biggest accomplishment and also my biggest regret.

#### **What's the regret?**

That I didn't get to live that as a child. I wasn't cherished.

*continued on page 67* ▶

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# All in the family

**Rosie's gay brother, Daniel, is making a name for himself in New York State politics**

**By Mubarak Dahir**

If you read Daniel O'Donnell's campaign literature, he seems like a gay politician with something to hide.

No, he doesn't shy away from his sexual orientation: His 22-year relationship with partner John Banta is mentioned repeatedly in his pamphlets. But what the fliers don't tell you about O'Donnell—a liberal 41-year-old public interest attorney who in November won a Democratic seat representing New York City's upper west side in the state assembly—is his relationship with lesbian celebrity and former talk-show host Rosie O'Donnell.

The closest his printed material gets is a veiled reference telling voters that “despite what you may know about my family, I am not a show-off.”

Is that a dig? Not at all, O'Donnell says. “I love my sister, but the fact that we are siblings was irrelevant in my campaign.”

You might think having a celebrity sister would give you a big boost in a campaign, but O'Donnell says “it made my job harder. I had to get people to focus on my record, not my celebrity connection.”

Indeed, he made it a point not to be closely affiliated with his sister while running for office. “If she would have shown up to campaign for me, it would have turned into being about her and not about the issues or my candidacy. So I worked hard not to let that interfere. On Election Day there was no lever with her name on it. When voters went into the booth I wanted to make sure they knew me and what I stood for.”

His bedrock issues included the en-



“I love my sister,” says O'Donnell, “but the fact that we are siblings was irrelevant in my campaign.”

vironment, education, and passing the Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act, a statewide gay rights bill that was near passage at press time, after a campaign of more than 30 years. Furthermore, he says he's in favor of amending SONDA to include transgender rights, an omission that has caused much strife between transgender and gay activists in the past.

Ever since he began his political career, he's had to fight to establish an identity separate from his famous sister. He says the first thing people say when they find out Rosie is his sibling is, “Oh, my God, you look just like her in the face!” To which O'Donnell replies, “You mean she looks like me. I'm older, so I had this face first!”

He did say, however, that Rosie's coming-out made this year's campaign a lot easier than his failed 1998 campaign for the statehouse. Back then, he recalls, though Rosie was not out publicly, many people in the gay and lesbian community knew she was gay.

“I'd go to some political function or a fund-raiser, and gay and lesbian people would accost me—‘Your sister's a lesbian! Why isn't she out?’ they'd yell at me. The gay community felt I had some sort of obligation to do something about it, when the reality was that I had no authority or control over that. So it was definitely much easier for me to run for office with her out of the closet.” ■



continued from page 65

**What else besides children helps to heal you around all this?**

I feel like I've been in the spotlight, fame-wise, and what I would love to do is to frame other people's work. Tennessee Williams wrote an amazing essay called "The Catastrophe of Success." He wrote it after he wrote *The Glass Menagerie*, about how his life was ruined by the success of that play. He finally realized that he had to check out of the Four Seasons hotel and to go back to Mexico and live amongst real people. Then he'd be able to write his next play. So I kind of felt like, he went to Mexico, I went to Nyack.

**I heard you're selling all your properties. Will you stay in New York?**

I plan on staying here—we're selling all our other residences that I had.

**Kelli told me that her parents have become a close part of the family.**

Kelli was less open about her sexuality than I was—and I was on TV. When I met her, she said, "My mother and father won't ever accept this; they're very religious." When I knew that she was going to be the person for my whole life, I sat down with her mother and father. "I love her and this is my life partner, and I hope that you can get on board with it, because I would like for you to be part of our family." And Kelli was like, "You didn't say that to them!"

**I bet they were relieved.**

You know what? I think so too, and they're here every month. They were in the hospital when I almost died last year. They have been parents and family to me unlike I have ever known. I didn't grow up in a traditional family. I didn't have a mom; I had a dad who was not really available to parent in many ways. And so now I'm seeing what that's like, and it's really, unbelievably soothing to me.

**I know you're good friends with Madonna. I've always thought that you and Madonna are the same person...**

[Laughing] Yes, I think so too.

**With different outsides. What do you think would happen if Rosie had Madonna's outside?**

I recognize that in her, and she me. When we first met—at a time when we were both on the roller coaster, looking for salvation—I was blessed to get to work with her, because I think God went, "Are you sure you want this [fame]? Take a look at what it does!" Madonna and I would walk down the street and people would run and scream at her; she has a thousand people outside her house right now. How can you live in that kind of distorted reality?

**Can anyone, really?**

Well, she has found a way to do it. She has love from her family that is authentic and a spirituality that grounds her. And I have loved the chance to get to the level of intimacy that we now have, which is based in truth and reality and *not* in the fact that we both ran away from painful childhoods and dead mothers, the way we thought joy was found.

**And yet that's the wound that will always be healing.**

She came into *A League of Their Own*, and everybody was so nervous when she arrived. I had seen *Truth or Dare* two days before—totally by chance. The first thing I said to her was: "My mother died when I was a kid, and I too am named after her. And on her gravestone is my name, and I saw your movie yesterday." And that was it. And there was no bullshit from that moment on. The way that we relate is different from the way I relate to anyone else. I have nothing but awe for the way that she's been able to get through what, few people know, is a tidal wave. It might seem like it's a nice, smooth ocean, but can I tell you something? It's a tidal wave! And you've gotta fight just to keep your head above the surface.

**I know you're bringing Boy George's musical *Taboo* to America...**

Yes. Boy George plays Leigh Bowery. I grew up loving George. He was one of the bravest gay entertainers there ever was. At the time he started I knew I was gay. He was 20, and I'm a year younger. As a young gay girl I remember him on talk shows answering ►



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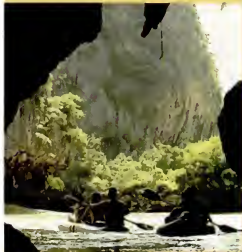
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the question "You're homosexual?" with "Well, I rarely have sex at home."

#### How do you get on with him?

He is talented beyond words and, as a result, not easy. Not meaning mean—he's a kindhearted man—but I call him and he's like *[imitating George's British accent]*, "Hello, darling, I'm in Shanghai!" "Great—listen, George, can you get on a plane and come to *The Tonight Show* with me?" "Oh, darling, I can't possibly fly east! I can only fly west until February, but much love to Kelli and the children."

#### Someone has to be the diva.

He's in his own reality, which is why he's able to be as brilliant as he is. What I want to do as a producer of *Taboo*—along with Adam Kenwright—is make a beautiful frame and put the greatest light on it and go, "Everybody, come here. Don't be distracted by me—look there." I want to step back. That's why no one can find me right now, because I've had enough of me.

#### Are you aware of what your coming-out means to people?

I see it in the eyes of people who have stopped me since I came out, and I get it. I have seen gay people come over to me and cry and tell me how proud they are of me that I was now a part of them. And what I always say is "Thank you—and just so you know, I was always a part of you." They knew.

#### No, they didn't.

I guess they didn't. But Judy, to me, I thought, *Of course they do.*

#### Well, I can't argue with what you thought.

Here's another thing, just to tell you a little bit about me. I was on a plane with Kelli, and I had my iPod on. They make that announcement: "Please turn off your electronic devices because they can interfere..." But I don't hear it because I have my iPod on. Kelli looks at me, and I'm grooving out to something. Later we get to the hotel, and she goes, "You know what? Honey, that was really rude." I said, "What was rude?" She said, "You didn't turn off your iPod." I said, "Why?" "Because they announced that it was interfering and

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because all those other people sitting on the plane within your vicinity thought you didn't care about them and that maybe the plane was gonna crash because you were too ignorant and self-obsessed to turn off your headphones."

#### Oh, dear!

I felt horrified. I said, "In a million years I never would've thought that anybody was thinking that. What I thought was, *Oh, my God, an iPod isn't gonna take down a 747.*" So of course I'm gonna keep on listening to my iPod. I didn't realize what other people were thinking.

It's the same with the gay thing. I mean, come on—I'm adopting kids, I never pretended to have a husband and/or a boyfriend. So I didn't understand that people really didn't know.

**All those people across America who didn't want to know colluded with your silence.**

You know, there's a quote that says that society will be measured not only by the noise of the bad but by the silence of the good. And only recently did I realize, *My silence was complicity. My silence did equal death in some ways.* I only know now, having jumped off the bridge, what people are talking about. Because I was on the bridge with my headphones on, going [yelling], "What're you talking about? Kelli, why are you being mean to me? I wasn't being rude!" It's the same kind of thing. Now I go to her and say: "You have to know, honey, that I didn't know." She goes, "I know you didn't know—that's why I'm telling you. Wake up!" And I kept telling her, "I'm awake! I'm awake!" Well, you know what? I'm not. ■

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• Adverse events possibly, probably or definitely related to use of AndroGel in a 1-year follow up (n=106) across all dose levels reported in at least 2% of patients included application site reaction 9.4%, prostate disorder 8.5%, acne 5.7%, and lab test abnormal 4.7%.

• Androgens are contraindicated in men with carcinoma of the breast, or known or suspected carcinoma of the prostate. Geriatric patients treated with androgens may be at an increased risk for the development of prostatic hyperplasia and prostatic carcinoma.

• To minimize the potential transfer of testosterone to another person, patients should wash their hands immediately with soap and water after application of AndroGel. They should cover the application site(s) with clothing after the gel has dried.



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1. Dobs AS. Androgen therapy in AIDS wasting. *Baillière's Clin Endocrinol Metab* 1998;12:379-390.

2. Grinspoon S, Corcoran C, Askari H, et al. Effects of androgen administration in men with the AIDS wasting syndrome: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. *Ann Intern Med* 1998;129:18-26.

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## INDICATIONS AND USAGE

AndroGel® is indicated for replacement therapy in males for conditions associated with a deficiency or absence of endogenous testosterone:

1. Primary hypogonadism (congenital or acquired)—testicular failure due to cryptorchidism, bilateral torsion, orchitis, vanishing testis syndrome, orchiectomy, Klinefelter's syndrome, chemotherapy, or toxic damage from alcohol or heavy metals. These men usually have low serum testosterone levels and gonadotropins (FSH, LH) above the normal range.
2. Hypogonadotropic hypogonadism (congenital or acquired)—idiopathic gonadotropin deficiency or pituitary-hypothalamic injury from tumors, trauma, or radiation. These men have low testosterone serum levels but have gonadotropins in the normal or low range.

AndroGel® has not been clinically evaluated in males under 18 years of age.

## CONTRAINDICATIONS

Androgens are contraindicated in men with carcinoma of the breast or known or suspected carcinoma of the prostate.

AndroGel® is not indicated for use in women, has not been evaluated in women, and must not be used in women.

Pregnant women should avoid skin contact with AndroGel® application sites in men. Testosterone may cause fetal harm. In the event that unwashed or unclothed skin with AndroGel® has been applied close to direct contact with the skin of a pregnant woman, the general area of contact on the woman should be washed with soap and water as soon as possible. *In vitro* studies show that residual testosterone is removed from the skin surface by washing with soap and water.

AndroGel® should not be used in patients with known hypersensitivity to any of its ingredients, including testosterone USP that is chemically synthesized from soy.

## WARNINGS

1. Prolonged use of high doses of orally active 17-alpha-alkyl androgens (e.g., methyltestosterone) has been associated with serious hepatic adverse effects (peliosis hepatis, hepatic neoplasms, cholelithiasis, and jaundice). Peliosis hepatis can be a life-threatening or fatal complication. Long-term therapy with testosterone enanthate, which elevates blood levels for prolonged periods, has produced multiple hepatic adenomas. Testosterone is not known to produce these adverse effects.
2. Geriatric patients treated with androgens may be at an increased risk for the development of prostatic hyperplasia and prostatic carcinoma.
3. Geriatric patients and other patients with clinical or demographic characteristics that are recognized to be associated with an increased risk of prostate cancer should be evaluated for the presence of prostate cancer prior to initiation of testosterone replacement therapy. In men receiving testosterone replacement therapy, surveillance for prostate cancer should be consistent with current practices for eugonadal men (see PRECAUTIONS: Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility and Laboratory Tests).
4. Edema with or without congestive heart failure may be a serious complication in patients with preexisting cardiac, renal, or hepatic disease. In addition to discontinuation of the drug, diuretic therapy may be required.
5. Gynecomastia frequently develops and occasionally persists in patients being treated for hypogonadism.
6. The treatment of hypogonadal men with testosterone esters may potentiate sleep apnea in some patients, especially those with risk factors such as obesity or chronic lung diseases.

## PRECAUTIONS

Transfer of testosterone to another person can occur when vigorous skin-to-skin contact is made with the application site (see Clinical Studies). The following precautions are recommended to minimize potential transfer of testosterone from AndroGel® treated skin to another person:

- Patients should wash their hands immediately with soap and water after application of AndroGel®.
  - Patients should cover the application site(s) with clothing after the gel has dried (e.g., a shirt).
  - In the event that unwashed or unclothed skin to which AndroGel® has been applied does come in direct contact with the skin of another person, the general area of contact on the other person should be washed with soap and water as soon as possible. *In vitro* studies show that residual testosterone is removed from the skin surface by washing with soap and water.
- Changes in body hair distribution, significant increase in acne, or other signs of virilization of the female partner should be brought to the attention of a physician.

## General

- The physician should instruct patients to report any of the following:
  - Too frequent or persistent erections of the penis.
  - Any nausea, vomiting, changes in skin color, or ankle swelling.
  - Breathing disturbances, including those associated with sleep.

## Information for Patients

Advise patients to carefully read the information brochure that accompanies each carton of 30 AndroGel® single-use packets.

## Advise patients of the following:

- AndroGel® should not be applied to the scrotum.
- AndroGel® should be applied once daily to clean, dry skin.
- After application of AndroGel® it is currently unknown how long showering or swimming should be delayed. For optimal absorption of testosterone, it appears reasonable to wait at least 56 hours after application prior to showering or swimming. Nevertheless, showering or swimming after just 1 hour should have a minimal effect on the amount of AndroGel® absorbed if done very infrequently.

## Laboratory Tests

1. Hemoglobin and hematocrit levels should be checked periodically to detect polycythemia in patients on long-term androgen therapy.
2. Liver function, prostatic specific antigen, cholesterol, and high-density lipoprotein should be checked periodically.
3. To ensure proper dosing, serum testosterone concentrations should be measured (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

## Drug Interactions

**Oxyphenbutazone:** Concurrent administration of oxyphenbutazone and androgens may result in elevated serum levels of oxyphenbutazone.

**Insulin:** In diabetic patients, the metabolic effects of androgens may decrease blood glucose and, therefore, insulin requirements.

**Propranolol:** In a published pharmacokinetic study of an injectable testosterone product, administration of testosterone cyanoate led to an increased clearance of propranolol in the majority of men tested.

**Corticosteroids:** The concurrent administration of testosterone with ACTH or corticosteroids may enhance edema formation; thus, these drugs should be administered cautiously, particularly in patients with cardiac or hepatic disease.

## Drug/Laboratory Test Interactions

Androgens may decrease levels of thyroxine-binding globulin, resulting in decreased total T4 serum levels and increased resin uptake of T3 and T4. Free thyroid hormone levels remain unchanged, however, and there is no clinical evidence of thyroid dysfunction.

## Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

**Animal Data:** Testosterone has been tested by subcutaneous injection and implantation in mice and rats. In mice, the implant induced cervical-uterine tumors, which metastasized in some cases. There is suggestive evidence that injection of testosterone into some strains of female mice increases their susceptibility to hepatoma. Testosterone is also known to increase the number of tumors and decrease the degree of differentiation of chemically induced carcinomas of the liver in rats.

**Human Data:** There are rare reports of hepatocellular carcinoma in patients receiving long-term oral therapy with androgens in high doses. Withdrawal of the drugs did not lead to regression of the tumors in all cases.

Geriatric patients treated with androgens may be at an increased risk for the development of prostatic hyperplasia and prostatic carcinoma.

Geriatric patients and other patients with clinical or demographic characteristics that are recognized to be associated with an increased risk of prostate cancer should be evaluated for the presence of prostate cancer prior to initiation of testosterone replacement therapy.

In men receiving testosterone replacement therapy, surveillance for prostate cancer should be consistent with current practices for eugonadal men.

**Pregnancy Category X (see Contraindications)—Teratogenic Effects:** AndroGel® is not indicated for women and must not be used in women.

**Nursing Mothers:** AndroGel® is not indicated for women and must not be used in women.

**Pediatric Use:** Safety and efficacy of AndroGel® in pediatric patients have not been established.

## ADVERSE REACTIONS

In a controlled clinical study, 154 patients were treated with AndroGel® for up to 6 months. Adverse Events possibly, probably or definitely related to the use of AndroGel® and reported by  $\geq 1\%$  of the patients are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Adverse Events Possibly, Probably or Definitely Related to Use of AndroGel® in the Controlled Clinical Trial

Adverse Event	5 G	7.5 G	10 G
Acne	1%	3%	8%
Alopecia	1%	0%	1%
Application Site Reaction	5%	3%	4%
Asthenia	0%	3%	1%
Depression	1%	0%	1%
Emotional Lability	0%	3%	3%
Gynecomastia	1%	0%	3%
Headache	4%	3%	0%
Hypertension	3%	0%	3%
Lab Test Abnormal*	6%	5%	3%
Lbido Decreased	0%	3%	1%
Nervousness	0%	3%	1%
Pain Breast	1%	3%	1%
Prostate Disorder**	3%	3%	5%
Testis Disorder	0%	0%	0%

\*Lab test abnormal occurred in nine patients with one or more of the following events: elevated hemoglobin or hematocrit, hyperlipidemia, elevated triglycerides, hypokalemia, decreased HDL, elevated glucose, elevated creatinine, or elevated total bilirubin.

\*\*Prostate disorders included five patients with enlarged prostate, one patient with BPH, and one patient with elevated PSA results.

The following adverse events possibly related to the use of AndroGel® occurred in fewer than 1% of patients: anemias, anisotrichia, alopecia, hair, clonidine, dry skin, drowsiness, hostility, impaired urination, paresthesia, penis disorder, peripheral edema, sweating, and vasodilation.

In this clinical trial of AndroGel® skin reactions at the site of application were occasionally reported with AndroGel® but none was severe enough to require treatment or discontinuation of drug.

Six (4%) patients in this trial had adverse events that led to discontinuation of AndroGel®. These events included the following: cerebral hemorrhage, convulsion (neither of which were considered related to AndroGel® administration), depression, sadness, memory loss, elevated prostate specific antigen and hypertension. No AndroGel® patients discontinued due to skin reactions.

In an uncontrolled pharmacokinetic study of 10 patients, two had adverse events associated with AndroGel®. These events were asthenia and depression in one patient and increased libido and hyperkinesia in the other. Among 17 patients in foreign clinical studies there was 1 instance each of acne, erythema and benign prostatic adenoma associated with a 2.5% testosterone gel formulation applied daily.

One hundred six (106) patients have received AndroGel® for up to 12 months in a long-term follow-up study for patients who completed the controlled clinical trial. The preliminary safety results from this study are consistent with those reported for the controlled clinical trial. Table 2 summarizes those adverse events possibly, probably or definitely related to the use of AndroGel® and reported by at least 1% of the total number of patients during long-term exposure to AndroGel®.

Table 2. Incidence of Adverse Events Possibly, Probably or Definitely Related to the Use of AndroGel® in the Long-Term, Follow-up Study

Adverse Event	Dose of AndroGel®		
	5 G	7.5 G	10 G
Lab Test Abnormal*	4.2%	0.0%	6.3%
Peripheral Edema	1.4%	0.0%	3.1%
Depression	2.8%	0.0%	12.5%
Application Site Reaction	9.7%	10.0%	3.1%
Prostate Disorder**	2.8%	5.0%	18.8%
Urination Impaired	2.8%	0.0%	0.0%

\*Lab test abnormal included one patient each with elevated GGT, elevated hematocrit and hemoglobin, increased total bilirubin, worsened hyperlipidemia, decreased HDL, and hypokalemia.

\*\*Prostate disorders included enlarged prostate, elevated PSA results, and in one patient, a new diagnosis of prostate cancer; three patients (one taking 7.5 G daily and two taking 10 G daily) discontinued AndroGel® treatment during the long-term study because of such disorder.

## DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE

AndroGel® contains testosterone, a Schedule III controlled substance as defined by the Anabolic Steroids Control Act. Oral ingestion of AndroGel® will not result in clinically significant serum testosterone concentrations due to extensive first-pass metabolism.

## OVERDOSAGE

There is one report of acute overdosage by injection of testosterone enanthate: testosterone levels of up to 11,400 ng/dL were implicated in a cerebrovascular accident.

## DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

The recommended starting dose of AndroGel® 1% is 5 G (delivering 5 mg of testosterone systemically, applied once daily (preferably in the morning) to clean, dry, intact skin of the shoulders and upper arms and/or abdomen. Upon opening the packet(s), the entire contents should be squeezed into the palm of the hand and immediately applied to the application sites. In application sites should be allowed to dry for a few minutes prior to dressing. Hands should be washed with soap and water after AndroGel® has been applied.

Do not apply AndroGel® to the genitalia.

Serum testosterone levels should be measured approximately 14 days after initiation of therapy to ensure proper dosing. If the serum testosterone concentration is below the normal range, or if the desired clinical response is not achieved, the daily AndroGel® 1% dose may be increased from 5 G to 7.5 G and from 7.5 G to 10 G as instructed by the physician.

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# If I picked the top 10



Magazines love to make lists. Top 10 gynecologists in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, and Staten Island—that was part of a cover story recently in *New York* magazine.

Nobody in New Jersey was worth a nod. I guess when Carmela Soprano has her pelvic, she comes into town.

A local magazine listed the top 10 sushi bars in Phoenix, a city surrounded by sand and no fish whatsoever. *Entertainment Weekly* lists the biggest people in Hollywood, and *Forbes* offers an annual accounting of the richest people in America.

This magazine has enjoyed compiling lists of gay people who made a difference or came out or otherwise got their horn blown in the past year. *Out*, another member of *The Advocate's* publishing family, recently offered a list of the 100 most intriguing gay people of 2002.

I did not make the cut. Probably, neither did you. My intrigue factor rises and falls with the years. At the moment, it is lower than the toilets at the Munchkinland Hilton. I wasn't bowled over with intrigue at *Out's* list. They were all names I'd read about. And they weren't as intriguing as, just for starters:

- The gay couple who put Rudy Giuliani up in their apartment after he split from the wife and couldn't yet start living with the girlfriend. What tales they could tell! Firefighters coming in and out at all hours, color-coded alerts (just like hankies in back pockets), how much time the man of the year spends in the bathroom. A trove of intrigue.
- The publicists who engineer celebrity comings-out. Who got the NFL's Esera Tualo on Bryant Gumbel's show? And for that matter, who's advising those closeted TV and

movie stars to remain below the radar? There's intrigue for you.

- Gay political candidates who are willing to subject themselves to media hysteria in order to join a leg-

stuff seriously and wrote a piece for a leading gay magazine, in which he related the supposedly true story of how the gay mafia all banded together to remove a movie producer's prostate. Mesmerizing.

- Gay right-wingers, also known as neocons (new conservatives, not to be confused with compassionate conservatives—remember them?). These gay people agree with Republicans on nongay issues and have somehow deduced themselves into thinking Republicans care the slightest bit about gay people. Intriguing.

• Gay left-wingers, many nursing hangovers from the '60s, who spend most of their time arguing with each other, usually with the firm belief that unless you share their personal views, you are probably a registered sex offender or shortly will be. Even more intriguing than neocons.

• Steve Cooley, the Los Angeles County district attorney, whose territory covers West Hollywood, where a number of gay men were followed on their way home late at night and clubbed over the head, a series of incidents that Cooley felt didn't constitute hate crimes. Come election time, he may discover that gay bashers don't turn out to vote quite as much as their victims do.

- The lesbian security guard at a recent TV special I wrote who watched thin, long-blond-haired teenybopper Aaron Carter, in a tie-less white suit, enter the theater and then announced over her walkie-talkie that Ellen DeGeneres had just arrived.
- Kathy Griffin, who has taken the underground concept of the gay myth (you know, Keanu-David, Matt-Ben) and turned it into mainstream network talk-show fodder. This may be the most intriguing gay person of all. And she's straight. ■



islatore that largely ignores them and a constituency that will be ready to blame every shortcoming on their sexuality. Who's crazy enough to get into that mess in the fantasy hope that they can make a difference? Somebody very intriguing.

- The audience in Palm Springs, Calif., that is packing the showings of Del Shores's hilarious movie *Sordid Lives*. It can't all be gay people, even in Palm Springs, famous home of the newly wed and nearly dead. I'm intrigued, aren't you?
- The guy who took the gay mafia

**Who was intriguing this year? How about the gay couple who put Rudy Giuliani up in their apartment? What tales they could tell!**

# A teen Idol's dreams

Jim Verraros, the 19-year-old *American Idol* finalist, talks for the first time about overcoming antigay abuse in school and finding the strength to come out and take on Hollywood  
By Bruce C. Steele

Say what you want about *American Idol*'s Jim Verraros—he's living a gay teenager's dream. He was one of 10 finalists competing for a record contract on last summer's most talked-about reality TV contest. He's just finished the "American Idols Live" concert tour, singing to thousands of screaming girls—and some starry-eyed boys—in packed arenas across the country. Gay kids write to thank him; straight teenage girls just want to touch his hand.

Whatever trip you want to lay on Verraros for the *Idol* cheese factor, he can take it. After enduring endless harassment for being a "faggot" in junior high in his hometown of Crystal Lake, Ill., he's prepared to stand up to all comers. Go ahead: Point out that he came in ninth out of 10 in the *Idol* pecking order. Say he got to the finals out of viewer sympathy after the show focused on his growing up with deaf parents and then showed him mercilessly dissed as underserving by sharp-tongued *Idol* judge Simon Cowell. Verraros doesn't care. "If people voted for me because they sympathized with me, great!" he says defiantly. "More votes for me."

*Idol* fans discovered Verraros is gay through his online journal before it quietly disappeared from the Web—a mystery he is now happy to explain. "I took it down because [Fox TV] told me to," he says. "It wasn't because I was gay. It was because they thought I was trying to gain more votes and have that little extra edge."

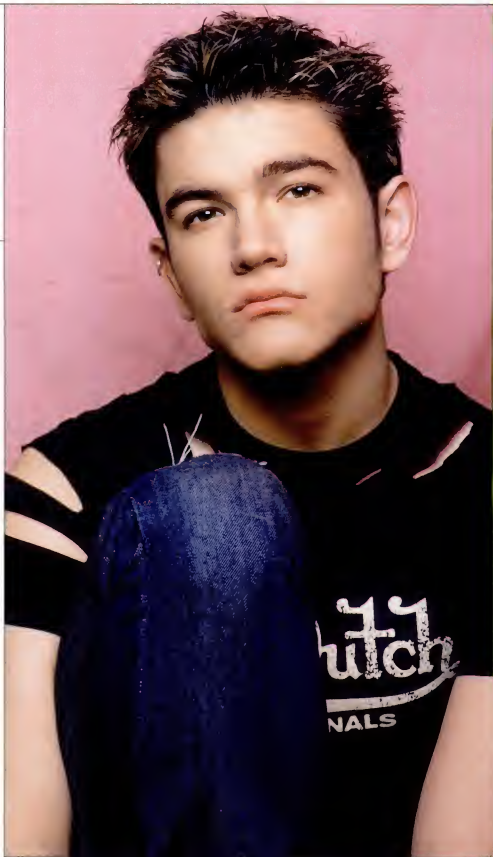


PHOTO: JASON MERRITT FOR THE ADVOCATE; STYLING: KATIE KENNER; HAIR: TONY GRIFFIN; MAKEUP: JESSICA BROWN; GROOMING: JESSICA BROWN; STYLING: KATIE KENNER; HAIR: TONY GRIFFIN; MAKEUP: JESSICA BROWN



Indeed, Verraros is anxious to talk about being an out teen, because he has a message for other gay and questioning youth: "There are people like you out there everywhere," he says, sitting tall in an Encino, Calif., Starbucks the afternoon after the final "American Idols Live" concert. "Trust me, they're there."

#### Why do you want to come out now?

I've given it a lot of thought, and I've done a lot of talking to my parents. My dad just kind of found out. They just flew in from Chicago to see the Seattle show last night, and they hugged me and said, "I love you and I accept you."

#### I know you talked to your mom before *American Idol*. Were you able to have a talk with your dad?

We did eventually—ironically, just last night. Backstage after the show, he just hugged me and said, "I love you and I accept you. Remember that." I just wanted to bawl. I never thought that was possible. He's very old-fashioned, narrow-minded, headstrong, stubborn—his family's very Greek.

#### So how did it go last night?

We went to my hotel room, and I got some room service—because they were staying at some crappy hotel and I was staying at the W in Seattle. We just talked and caught up on things, and of course my sexuality had to be discussed, but that was OK. And he was just very, "You're 19 years old. Whatever makes you happy will make me happy. I'm just afraid that people are going to harass you. I'm afraid that you're going to die. I'm afraid that people aren't going to accept you"—which I can totally see, coming from a parent. "But as long as you're happy and healthy, I love you." And I was just like, *What? Is this a dream? Shouldn't you be telling me I'm wrong?* But it wasn't like that at all.

**So the day after coming out to your dad, you're coming out to the world.** Being on tour with *American Idol* has given me a lot of time to think about who I want to be and how I want to portray myself. I'm not looking to be the poster boy for homosexuality, but I think that it's time for people to be true to themselves—especially teens. I think that you should be able to act, sing,

dance, write, drive race cars—whatever—and be gay and have that be OK.

I just got an E-mail from a 15-year-old fan, and he goes to Catholic school. And he had magazine clippings of me in his locker, and someone found them. A teacher found out and ripped them out of his locker, and word spread that he was gay. He lost a lot of his friends. His parents don't look at him the same way. But he wanted to tell me thank you because he knew that even though no one

**"Touring with *American Idol* has given me time to think about who I want to be. I'm not looking to be the gay poster boy, but I think that it's time for teens to be true to themselves."**

supported him, he knew that I would. That broke my heart. That's what I want to do. I mean, of course, I want to have my career. But I want to incorporate [activism] into my career as well.

*[Two teenage girls come by the table. One politely asks for an autograph for the other, who's too shy to ask. Jim obliges with a smile. They leave.]*

Those girls are like, "Can I touch your hand?" I'm like, "Oh, girl, if you only knew." It's really cute.

#### Do you think those two girls would really care if they knew you're gay?

It doesn't matter. *[Pauses]* I'm at the point where if I'm happy with myself and I'm doing what I love to do and people really do love me for what I do, then it shouldn't matter. I think it's a sad, sad thing to lose interest in someone because of their sexuality, because they choose to love and be loved. But I'm not going to fight for you to like me. I'm very comfortable with who I am—I love who I am. If you don't like it, then you don't have to read about me, and you don't have to watch me kiss a boy—just look the other way. That's all you have to do.

#### Are you out to the other *Idol* finalists?

Definitely the top 10, and they were more than supportive. That's kind of what drew me to coming out publicly, because I knew that these nine Idols—from different towns, different lives—they all see something the same in me, and they all love me no matter what.

#### How did the other finalists respond when rumors would come out about some of the other guys being gay?

They were just kind of like, "People are going to talk." Being in front of the public, you need to be prepared for that.

#### Did anyone come out to you? The Idols? No.

#### But they support your coming-out.

**When I picked you up last week outside the hotel where you all were staying—to go to the photo shoot—[fellow Idol] R.J. came running over to say how proud he was of you.**

He's great. I'm close with everyone. I love everyone to death. It's nice to know that I can be like, "Oh, I met the cutest boy," and everyone's genuinely interested. It makes me happy.

#### When did you figure out you were gay?

I think I was, like, 12 or 13, and my dad and I were watching *Baywatch*, and he made some comment about Pamela Anderson's breasts. And he looked at me like, *Yeah?* And I was thinking, *No*. But [to him] I was like, *Yeah*. And I was looking at the TV, thinking, *OK, Cody needs to come back on*. I just knew. I used to have friends that were girls—always. ►

Like, I'd brush their hair—I knew; you just know. I knew I was different.

**Did you come out to any of your girlfriends in high school?**

No. I just couldn't. It just wasn't the right time.

**What stopped you?**

Junior high. My life was a living hell.

**Tell me about that.**

I was pinpointed as gay the minute I set foot in junior high. My voice wasn't as low as the other guys'. I loved choir. I loved theater. I was a lot more effeminate than most of the guys were, and of course guys pick up on that right away. And it got really, really bad. I was called "faggot" every day for a long time. I would literally run from class to class.

**Did you tell anyone about this?**

Yes, the school psychologist. She was amazing. This was in seventh grade—I was miserable; I would literally come home crying every day. She said, "Make me a list of all the people who do this to you. We will call them in one at a time, and I'll let you have a conversation with them. I'll sit in the corner; you can say whatever you want, and they cannot touch you." I said, "Fine." I wrote down a list of probably about 200 people.

**Two hundred people? Then what?**

I gave her the list. And of course, we had to narrow it down to the extreme cases, and there were, like, 75 people who were literally, like, harassing me and threatening to kill me. Then I would take, like, maybe two periods a day for a week, and I would sit down and look them in the face and be like, "What's your problem? What have I ever done to you?" And of course, they'd deny it because [the psychologist] is sitting in the corner. I don't think there was any person who admitted, "It's because you're a faggot." No one. Ugh. Even going back to that is, like, so painful.

**But you kept having these meetings.**

Because I knew that I was tired of it. I literally wanted to die, I was so sick of it. I knew that my life was not supposed to be like this, and I knew that one day I was going to be able to show them where I was going and who I was going

to be. In eighth grade a lot of it cut down. I landed the lead role in the play *Tom Sawyer*, and I changed my image. I wore a lot of baggy jeans, I gained weight, and it was fine for a while.

**Was high school better?**

Yeah. Everything changed. I was Big Theater Boy. Everyone knew who I was. I was a big personality. I made the first play when I was a freshman, and I was in leads all through high school. So high school was great, and I very rarely ever [heard] a comment like "Faggot," and if I did, I'd be like, "What the *F* is



Verraros on *Idol*: "Talent's only half of it."

your problem?" Like, I stood up for myself, 'cause I was tired of it.

**But you didn't feel comfortable enough to come out.**

Yeah. But college came and changed my life—Monmouth College in Monmouth, Ill. I got a theater scholarship. It was 3½ hours away from home. I needed that experience to find out who I was. And I came out, and it was easy because I was away from my parents. I was away from everyone at high school—I was my own person, and I was happy. It was awesome.

**Then you transferred to Columbia College in Chicago. How was that?**

It was *beyond* gay-friendly. Everyone was gay. Like, my dorm was like, probably 60% gay. But I did musical theater, and it was very political. They never

gave me a shot. That was when I decided that I needed to lose my weight. I was, like, 235 pounds. I was ready to change my life—my look, at least.

There are two things in my life that I want to be successful and to be loved. And I really wanted to be loved at that point, because—and I believe this now—if you're not happy with yourself, you're not going to be happy with someone else. So I literally worked out to death until I was at the size that I wanted to be: I was a 36 waist; I went down to a 30. I'm 165 now. And my weight came off, and I started shopping in stores where I never thought I could.

**Then you heard about the *American Idol* auditions.**

Yeah. I decided, I'm going to do this for fun—not expecting anything, but just to do it and see what happens.

**The show really played up the fact that your parents are deaf. How do you feel when people say, "Oh, he just got the sympathy vote?"**

You can't win 'em all! I mean, I wish that I could have been voted on for my pure hard-core raw talent, but I can't control that. Talent's only half of it.

**But you're focusing now on acting again, not just singing.**

I want to do sitcoms. I'd love to do *Will & Grace*. I'd love to do *Friends*. I want to model, actually, really bad, for Abercrombie and Dolce & Gabbana. Stuff like that. I kind of want to do a little bit of everything, actually. I'd love to do Broadway, you know?

**Are you seeing anyone?**

For once in my life I'm dating someone. I don't want to say too much—it's fairly new, almost a month, maybe. He's smart and adorable and just amazing to be around. He makes me feel, like, incredible. I can't really tell you how happy I am right now.

**It gets harder from here. Hollywood is tough. Are you ready for that?**

Oh yeah—oh, yeah. I can promise: *American Idol* won't be the last that people hear of me. ■



For extensive outtakes from this interview with *American Idol*'s Jim Verraros, go to [www.fox.com](http://www.fox.com)

# TOP 10 TV



## 1 *Saturday Night Live*

With Sir Ian McKellen. That mad kiss with Jimmy Fallon had us weeping with laughter. Here's hoping a great film comedy is in his future.

## 2 *The Laramie Project*

A brilliant stage invention retains its power on the tube.

## 3 *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*

Tara dies; Willow gets nasty; fans revolt. We enjoyed it all.

## 4 *Six Feet Under*

David and Keith have an angry, sexy fight. About time.

## 5 *Primetime Thursday*

Rosie O'Donnell comes out. A moving case study in making the personal political as well.

## 6 *Bobbie's Girl*

A sweet tale of lesbian parents that earned laughter, tears, and a family audience.

## 7 *American Idol: Finale*

We voted for Kelly. Often.

## 8 *Once and Again*

Jessie's teen same-sex crush. Sweet and sensitively done.

## 9 *Queer as Folk*

Brian loses Justin. With a sexy fiddler waiting in the wings, our boy is growing up.

## 10 *The Amazing Race*

What do Oswald and Danny—two gay Miami pals—do in the middle of a \$1 million race? Shop! Now, that's reality TV.

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Illustration by Kristian Olson for *The Advocate*  
Compiled by Gerard Raymond





# TOP 10 STAGE



## 1 Hairspray

We always knew John Waters would conquer the world. We just didn't know Harvey Fierstein would be involved.

## 2 Sondheim Celebration, Kennedy Center

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## 3 Homebody/Kabul

Kushner's thrilling play involved much more than Afghanistan.

## 4 Metamorphoses

The grandeur of Greece in a wading pool.

## 5 The Goat or Who Is Sylvia?

Albee's fable of animal attraction won audiences and a Tony.

## 6 Take Me Out

Top baseball player comes out; chaos follows. A thoughtful hit.

## 7 Thoroughly Modern Millie

Tony-winning update of the beloved movie musical.

## 8 Gay Games 2002 Opening Ceremonies

Worth a trip to Sydney and worthy of any Olympics anywhere.

## 9 I Think I Like Girls

Drama based on interviews with women who love women.

## 10 Beverly Winwood Presents the Actor's Showcase

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AND RICHARD GERE

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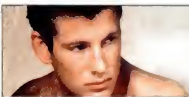
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# Does MPAA = Most Parents Are Antigay?

Why do squeaky-clean gay-themed movies—even those intended for family viewing—get slapped with strict MPAA ratings?

The ratings board believes parents want it that way

By Mike Goodridge

**T**hey make their arguments as if they were a housewife in Denver, and they're probably right that a housewife in Denver would be offended by gay sex scenes," says United Artists marketing chief Dennis O'Connor. He's talking about the Motion Picture Association of America, which he **battled in** 1998 over the lesbian movie *Better Than Chocolate* when he worked at Trimark Pictures. The guidelines laid out by the MPAA in its determination of movie and TV ratings make no specific mention of gay or lesbian themes and sexuality, but film distributors who deal with the MPAA-backed rating board, the Classification and Rating Administration (CARA), tell another story.

"There is no question that the folks that comprise the ratings board at the MPAA trail U.S. society as a whole in keeping current with societal norms," says Tom Ortenberg, president of Lions Gate Films Releasing. Ortenberg recently dealt with the board when Lions Gate's *The Rules of Attraction* was given a prohibitive NC-17 rating partly because of a gay fantasy scene in which Ian Somerhalder's character fantasizes that he makes out fully clothed with James Van Der Beek. "They told me specifically that this scene was among their objec-

tions," explains Ortenberg. "But this scene was strictly a fantasy. There was no nudity." Ortenberg objected to making cuts to the scene, and he won his battle—the film went out with an R rating after other cuts were made from the film.

CARA, which is based in Encino, Calif., says it makes its decisions using criteria parents would use when deciding what is suitable viewing for their child. A spokesperson for the MPAA contacted for this arti-

cle scoffed at the idea that gay and lesbian films get harsh treatment at the hands of CARA, which is composed of "men and women just like you" who "make an educated estimate as to which rating most American parents would consider the most appropriate."

So are these "parents" on the board homophobic? "They claim they respond to parental feedback, which is usually negative," says O'Connor. "I remember they got a complaint



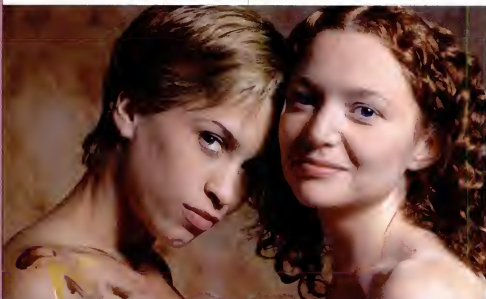


from a person who had seen our trailer for *Better Than Chocolate* with their child and was offended."

But what about movies with gay content that were specifically made with a family audience in mind? Perhaps more disturbing than MPAA objections to controversial material like *The Rules of Attraction* is its decision to give PG-13 ratings ("Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13") to positive portraits of gay relationships in such wholesome-as-milk movies as *Big Eden* and *Bobbie's Girl*. "How does a family film like

painted logo of the tavern where the movie is set so as not to cause offense. After all that, the PG-13 feels hurtful."

Similarly, *Big Eden*, one of the first gay movies not to be rated R, is so good-natured that its PG-13 rating feels absurd to many observers. "We knew that the MPAA was particularly harsh on gay movies, so we even filmed a number of different options without swear words," says the film's producer Jennifer Chaiken. "We needed to have options. I was worried that they would give us an R, although



Does your *Mamá* know: Gay-themed movies thought to be too hot for parental sensibilities include (clockwise from top) *Better Than Chocolate*, *The Rules of Attraction*, and *Y Tu Mamá También*.

*Bobbie's Girl* rate a PG-13?" asks writer-producer Sam Bernstein of the made-for-Showtime drama, now on home video, starring Rachel Ward and Bernadette Peters as a lesbian couple who raise a young boy. "That's insane, and it clearly shows discomfort with the reality of gay and lesbian family life. There is no sex, no violence, and no bad language. There are a couple of closed-mouth kisses, that's all. The annoying thing is that I had them cover the nipples of the woman on the

they gave us a PG-13 without cuts."

Distributors can reject the board's ratings and opt to release a film unrated, but the financial ramifications of making that choice can be fatal. "First of all, you'll never get into shopping mall multiplexes if your film is unrated or even with an NC-17; and second, it is rare for Blockbuster or Hollywood Video to stock an unrated film," explains Jon Gerrans, copresident of Strand Releasing, the independent company that specializes in gay▶

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Gerrans: "Gay and lesbian sex is one notch up the scale from pornography" to the ratings board.

themed films. One film that got slapped with an NC-17, was released unrated, and hit big despite those handicaps was the homoerotically charged *Y Tu Mamá También*, although an R-rated cut has been made available on video for the Blockbusters of the world.

Gerrans recently battled the MPAA over a proposed NC-17 rating for the lesbian thriller *The Monkey's Mask*, starring Kelly McGillis. "To the conservative people on the board, gay and lesbian sex is one notch up on the acceptability scale from pornography. On *Monkey's Mask*, I was surprised at some of the scenes they suggested we take out to give it an R. For example, one sex scene, they felt, went on too long."

Strand has had numerous run-ins with the board. When they submitted *Beefcake*, Thom Fitzgerald's 1989 por-

trait of 1950s muscle-men magazines, the MPAA said that there were no cuts to make that would avoid an NC-17 rating. "They said that they wouldn't know what to change," Gerrans recalls. "The overall subject matter made it too difficult, so we released it unrated, and of course, then Blockbuster wouldn't stock it. There was obviously too much male frontal nudity, although the men weren't erect. The board, however, is very careful not to tell you why [they make their decisions] sometimes."

Tom Ortenberg says he knows exactly why those decisions get made: "They think they represent Middle America, but the only people they really represent are themselves." ■

*Goodridge is U.S. editor of Screen International.*

## TOP 10 FILMS



### 1 *Far From Heaven*

This homage to 1950s melodramas features Dennis Quaid's Oscar-worthy turn as a closeted suburban husband.

### 2 *The Hours*

A complex novel brought powerfully to the screen with a troika of perfect performances.

### 3 *Y Tu Mamá También*

A movie about a threesome where the guy-guy attraction isn't swept under the rug.

### 4 *The Cockettes*

Communes and free love live again in this delightful doc.

### 5 *Frida*

The bisexual Mexican painter seduces men, women, and all of us in the audience.

### 6 *8 Women*

A campy visual feast that has audiences humming the songs and the costumes.

### 7 *Lilo & Stitch*

Out codirector Dean DeBlois mixes classic animation with modern nontraditional families.

### 8 *Talk to Her*

Pedro Almodóvar proves he can direct men as well as women without losing his uniquely outrageous touch.

### 9 *Chicago*

A splashy, sexy extravaganza.

### 10 *Borstal Boy*

A poignant and passionate bisexual coming-of-age story.

# A crowning year for Queen

More than a decade after Freddie Mercury's death, Queen goes on and on. Is this band immortal?

By Lawrence Ferber

This year was Queen's jubilee—and we're not just talking about Queen Elizabeth II. In 2002 the legendary British musical act Queen continued to reign, even though the band effectively ceased to exist on November 24, 1991, when front man Freddie Mercury succumbed to AIDS complications.

These days surviving members Roger Taylor, Brian May, and John Deacon ably carry the torch—along with any number of testosterone-bursting heterosexuals who regularly stomp along to the refrain "We will rock you" at sporting events.

"One may not realize Queen is all around, but it is so all around," opines Stephin Merritt, puckish New York musician and closet Queen fan. "I was just reading a book in which all cassettes left in cars turn into *Queen's Greatest Hits* in two weeks, which is so true to my life experience. If it's not labeled, it's probably *Queen's Greatest Hits*."

This year the champions' presence practically spanned the media: A musical based on their songs had audiences singing. The band received a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame in Los Angeles. A concert tribute to Mercury just came out on DVD. And, yes, Queen took part in that other British queen's jubilee pop concert.

What's the band's enduring appeal? Sheer virtuosity, for one thing. Queen's

swoony, soaring sound is as thrilling today as when the songs were recorded. And Mercury's obvious, though never admitted, homosexuality also added spice to the mix. "Having a flamboyant gay front person allowed them to do all kinds of absurdly sexual music," says Merritt. "Queen was a triple entendre name. Whatever the name means, it ends up being interestingly sexual."

In a year when everybody wanted to forget their troubles, London's West End musical *We Will Rock You* took Queen hits and wove a silly but fun story around them. Written by Ben Elton and musically supervised by May and Taylor, *We Will Rock You* imagines a conformist world—Planet Mall—in which a rebel named Galileo Figaro (after a character in a Queen song) recaptures the world for rock and roll. Critics blanched, but audiences went wild.

In May came the queen's jubilee pop concert (celebrating Elizabeth's 50 years on the throne), at which May performed an electric guitar rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner."

And to crown Queen's de facto ju-



Roger Taylor (left) and Brian May pose for fans as Queen gets a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

bilee, December saw the release of *The Freddie Mercury Tribute Concert Special 10th Anniversary Edition* DVD. Originally organized to raise AIDS awareness and funds for the Mercury Phoenix Trust, this 1992 all-star concert event starred a crazy mix of celebs, including David Bowie, Elizabeth Taylor, Axl Rose, Elton John, Annie Lennox, George Michael, and Liza Minnelli. The DVD includes bonuses like rehearsal footage and a TV documentary. For those disappointed that 2003 won't be the year of Liza (on reality TV, at least), the disc features the diva's rendition of "We Are the Champions"—a rousing, if strangely drag queen-esque, debacle.

Mercury would be proud. "The original was a strangely drag queen-esque debacle," Merritt rhapsodizes. "Just a little too early for video." ■

Ferber has also written for *Entertainment Weekly* and *Time Out New York*.





# TOP 10 MUSIC



**1 Linda Perry in concert**  
at the Knitting Factory, Los Angeles  
Perry and Pink and Ms. Aguilera  
singing Perry's songs, plus  
Perry's Led Zep set. 'Nuff said.

**2 Imperial Teen, *On***  
Sardonic vocals, bouncy guitars—a discoless dance party.

**3 Sigur Rós, ( )**  
Another beautifully melancholy  
album about nothing.

**4 Meshell Ndegeocello, *Cookie: The Anthropological Mixtape***  
Her thoughts move almost as  
fast as her bass-playing fingers.

**5 Sleater-Kinney, *One Beat***  
These women keep pounding  
out the primo punk rock.

**6 Tony Bennett and k.d. lang, *A Wonderful World***  
Who knew that k.d.'s soul mate  
would be a 70-something guy?

**7 George Michael, "Freeek!"**  
George advocates for youth.  
And you can dance to it.

**8 David Daniels, *Handel Oratorio Arias***  
Handel was a showstopper, and  
so is the amazing Daniels.

**9 Frida soundtrack**  
Chavela Vargas, 83, can still  
knock your huaraches off.

**10 Boy George, *A Night Out With...* and *A Night In With...***  
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# Touring with T

Thanks to her outstanding debut novel, T Cooper wound up seeing the USA on a 30-city tour  
By Michele Kort

"I've been to Middle America," says T Cooper with faux gravity, as if she'd just returned from the Lewis and Clark expedition. This past fall, the 30-year-old queer author's first novel, *Some of the Parts* (Akashic Books), proved to be one of the great successes of the year in GLBT fiction and was chosen by Barnes & Noble for its Discover Great New Writers program. That meant the book—which skillfully knits together the disparate lives of a healthy but HIV-positive gay man, the handsome genderfucking woman he lives with, his beautiful but directionless bisexual niece, and his lonely divorced straight sister—would be displayed prominently for three months in every B&N bookstore in America. Cooper, while on a 30-city tour, stopped to sign copies at each one she passed.

"I've been to 75 or 80 stores," she says while sipping tea in Los Angeles's Venice neighborhood, near where she grew up. "And authors don't just pop into Normal, Ill."

Let alone authors as out of the norm as Cooper, whose appealingly boyish personal style makes people occasionally question her presence in ladies' rooms—not unlike the questioning faced by the character Isak in *Parts*, who goes so far as to appear in a carnival sideshow as an "Is it a boy or a girl?" freak. Cooper has also been a member of the Backdoor Boys, a New York City drag king boy-band parody quartet who turned the sup-



Cooper's novel reflects her life in New York's East Village, where friends and neighbors function as loosely knit extended families.

posedly innocent "I Want It That Way" into a paean to anal sex.

"On the surface it might seem I'm more similar to Isak, but in some ways I relate more to Arlene (the straight sister) than anyone else," says Cooper, who insists the book isn't autobiographical. Called T (short for Teresa) since childhood, she grew up in an intact family with her older brother; her mother worked in radio promotion,

and her father wrote songs such as Donny and Marie's "A Little Bit Country, A Little Bit Rock and Roll." Yet her book explores a postnuclear 21st-century family. "There are a lot of people around the East Village"—where she now lives with her girlfriend, founder of the women's bookstore Bluestockings, and their miniature pinscher, Murray—"who take the families they were given and leave them, then ►

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make their own. I'm surrounded by straight people, gay people, artists, nonartists—it doesn't matter. We watch each other's kids, walk each other's dogs, took care of each other when September 11 happened. I wanted to look at that kind of family."

Cooper studied writing at Middlebury College in Vermont and at Columbia University in Manhattan, where her mentors included Michael Cunningham, the out author of *The Hours*. She has worked as a magazine writer-researcher and as a high school teacher and tutor to support her fiction, and her nonfiction efforts include an essay in the recent anthology *Dog Culture* (Lyons Press). She's currently mulling another "family" project—a novel about lower east side immigrants in the pre-World War I era. Again, it's not autobiographical, she says, but her own Jewish family did come to the New World from Russia, Poland, and Latvia.

Meanwhile, Cooper has a few more B&N stores to call on. "It's kind of comforting to know that their program is interested in my kind of fiction," she says. "It's not even about making money, but about getting the support to go on writing." ■

Kort is the author of *Soul Picnic: The Music and Passion of Laura Nyro*.

COOPER: DAN SHAFER FOR THE ADVOCATE

## TOP 10 BOOKS



**1 Fingersmith**  
Sarah Waters  
Lesbian love in the gutters of Victorian London—a world-class yarn.

**2 At Swim, Two Boys**  
Jamie O'Neill  
Sprawling saga of secret gay love amid Ireland's troubles.

**3 Some of Us Did Not Die**  
June Jordan  
The late writer shines in essays from the '60s to September 11.

**4 You Are Not a Stranger Here**  
Adam Haslett  
Sharp stories by an openly gay law student; a *Today* show pick.

**5 Running With Scissors**  
Augusten Burroughs  
A boy's crazy mom pawns him off on her crazier shrink—a memoir soon to be a film.

**6 Some of the Parts**  
T Cooper  
Sometime drag king Cooper conjures postmodern family.

**7 Letters to Montgomery Cliff**  
Noël Alumi  
A gay Los Angeles Filipino's coming-of-age story—marvelous.

**8 Dress Codes**  
Noelle Howey  
Good Morning America touted this book by the child of a transsexual dad.

**9 Love in a Dark Time**  
Colm Tóibín  
Musings on the meanings of gay love in the old coded days.

**10 Screening Party**  
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Wicked L.A. hipsters clobber movies we love to hate.



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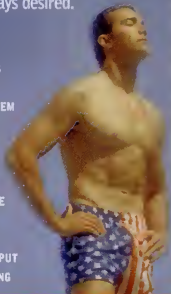
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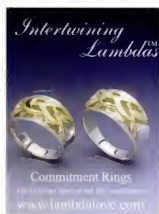
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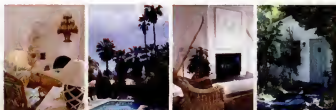


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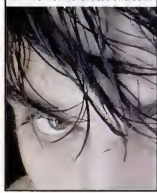
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# The homosexual translator menace



If the newest warnings of a calamitous attack by al-Qaeda come true, you can blame the antigay policies of the U.S. government for the military's failure to detect the details of the latest onslaught before it occurs. According to our government's brilliant policy, you can be a gay assistant secretary of Defense

(like former Pentagon spokesman-turned-NBC correspondent Pete Williams) or a gay CIA agent serving in the same foxhole as a Special Forces officer in Afghanistan. But the one thing you cannot be is a gay member of the *uniformed* armed forces.

Well, as a matter of fact—making this whole scenario even more reminiscent of *The Twilight Zone*—according to a recent feature in this magazine ("Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Go," November 26), sometimes a gay service member *can* stay in, as long as his commanding officer considers him butch enough to avoid routine harassment.

But the one thing you can absolutely never be is a gay member of the group most needed to forestall the next terrorist attack: the Army-trained Arabic linguists who might actually understand one of the hundreds of thousands of conversations and E-mails that the government is now authorized to scrutinize under the USA PATRIOT Act, which—believe it or not—is actually an acronym for the "Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism" Act. Don't you feel safer already?

The shortage of Arabic speakers in the FBI and the CIA was one of the most conspicuous failures leading to the government's inability to connect the dots before the catastrophes at

the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. A few days after September 11, I ran into Robert Morgenthau, the legendary Manhattan district attorney. Morgenthau mentioned that he



had one Arabic translator on his staff whom his federal colleagues in New York were constantly trying to borrow because they had no full-time Arabic translators before the attacks.

But as far as the Army is concerned, it's better to have no Arabic translators than to have gay ones. News of the Army's latest effort to protect us from the homosexual translating menace was broken in *The New Republic* by Nathaniel Frank, a senior fellow at the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military, the superb think tank

run by Aaron Belkin at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Frank reported that within one two-month period last fall, "seven fully competent" Arabic linguists had been discharged from the Army's elite Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif., because they were gay. In fact, the number of gay students there may have contributed to a false sense of security among those students. Frank wrote that the institute's Northern California location attracted "a large number" of gay linguists. "There were way too many gay people at DLI for anybody to fear the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy," Frank quoted a gay former student as saying. "Sometimes we lived on halls that were more than 50% homosexual."

All of which may explain why Alastair Gamble, who was a star student at DLI, felt comfortable enough to invite his boyfriend and fellow student to spend the night with him after he had completed more than 30 weeks of intensive Arabic training. Unfortunately, that was also the night of a surprise "health and welfare" inspection at 3:30 A.M., and the two men were caught in bed together. Both of them were discharged.

Of course, even if you are as fervently in favor of openly gay people serving in the military as I am, you may still think Gamble went too far by going to bed with his boyfriend. In that case, think again. Israel and every original member of NATO except Portugal and the United States now allow gays to serve openly in their armies. And the Spanish Civil Guard, founded by Francisco Franco, has just announced a new policy: Any gay couple who have been together for at least two years can sleep together in the guard's barracks. ■

**You can be a gay CIA agent but can't be a gay member of the group most needed to forestall the next terrorist attack: an Army-trained Arabic linguist.**

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